personality disorders is in the DSM-IV-TR Diagnostic Criteria feature above.

**Paranoid Personality Disorder**

Clients with paranoid personality disorder engage in a pattern of pervasive mistrust of others, interpreting as malevolent the motives of others. They often report that others plot against them or attempt to use or deceive them. They talk about disloyal friends and coworkers and the irreversible harm others’ actions have caused. They may be surprised but mistrustful of loyalty shown to them and often refuse to answer questions, saying, “That is no one’s business.” A frequent theme of clients with a paranoid personality disorder is pathologic suspicion of spousal or partner infidelity. Unrealistic grandiose fantasies often emerge; clients may discuss activities with others who share their beliefs, such as special interest groups or cults. Client affect may be labile, with hostile, stubborn sarcasm being predominant.

**Suspiciousness and Mistrust**

Suspiciousness and mistrust reflect an attitude of doubt toward the trustworthiness of objects or people. Suspiciousness is also a way of thinking and includes such manifestations as expectations of trickery or harm, guardedness, secretiveness, pathologic jealousy, and overconcern with hidden motives and special meanings. For example, the suspicious person may perceive a birthday gift as a trick to create an obligation. Legal disputes may arise from the client’s response to perceived threats. In the following clinical example, Jim’s situation exemplifies the outcome of paranoid feelings and behaviors.

**CLINICAL EXAMPLE**

Jim, a 39-year-old engineer, suspects that his employer is withholding significant data from him pertaining to an important job assignment. Jim began to question others about the reliability and integrity of his boss. He went to the plant one