

# SAFE HARBOR

A monthly newsletter for the Maritime worker from  
The Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr.

*December 2018*



Thank you for your maritime service and taking the time to review our Newsletter. We at the Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. hope you find the following information helpful. If you have any questions regarding your rights or remedies please contact us at any time. We are here to serve you.



## DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SIGNING?



Reading what you sign is always a good idea! However, it becomes extremely important that you understand when you are signing documents put in front of you by the ship's officers. What is referred to as "pre-sign on" documents often call for pertinent information about your health and health history. You must read these carefully and complete these forms properly and honestly. Otherwise, should something occur to you that involves your failure to disclose adequate information, your future medical and shipping rights, as well as other legal rights could be jeopardized. Don't rush through them as this is important information!

## QUESTION FROM THE BRIDGE



I was receiving maintenance and cure for my shipboard back injury for a few weeks and then it stopped. The company told me that I had not disclosed a prior injury when I signed on and they had no obligation to provide these benefits. What can I do about this?      Aaron L., New Orleans

*Answer: Aaron, more information is needed but it seems as if when you completed the health questionnaire in the pre-sign on paperwork that you did not make full disclosure about a prior problem. If you had suffered a prior back injury, similar to the one for which you are now claiming maintenance and cure, and it was recent enough to question the causation of your current injury, you probably need a lawyer to go after them. The key is whether there is reason to believe that your current injury treatment is somehow related to a prior similar condition.*

### About Our Law Firm

For more than four decades, merchant mariners, longshoremen, fishermen and harbor workers plying their trades at sea, on the docks, on our U.S. coastal waters and inland waterways have turned to the maritime law firm of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. & Associates in Oakland. Today, we are proud to be recognized as one of the preeminent maritime law firms serving injured marine workers nationwide, as well as one of the most successful personal injury litigation firms serving victims of negligence in the San Francisco Bay Area and throughout the West Coast.

### Team Approach to Every Personal Injury and Jones Act Claim

When you retain Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. & Associates for a Jones Act injury claim, or personal injury claim, you don't get just one attorney, you get our entire team of dedicated professionals. Our attorneys offer more than 150 combined years of courtroom and negotiated claims settlement experience. We will represent your interests with unwavering dedication, speed and expertise.

### Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr.

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