

SAFE HARBOR

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

April 2014



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 informative and helpful. If you have any questions regarding your rights or remedies please contact us at any time. We are here to serve you.



DON'T GIVE UP YOUR COAST GUARD DOCUMENT WITHOUT A FIGHT!



Hopefully, the day will not come when a Coast Guard officer approaches a mariner advising that an investigation is underway or a complaint is about to be filed regarding allegations of misconduct. Should that occur it is generally a bad idea to "voluntarily" surrender your Coast Guard documents/license before legal counsel is retained. Once the Coast Guard gets ahold of these papers it is not easy to get them back even if you are later exonerated from the "alleged" offense.

The more wise course of action is to obtain legal advice. Deferring surrender of these documents is usually the best avenue to deal with the situation. If surrender is eventually necessary it can be accomplished with arrangements to make it the shortest time possible. Retrieving documents once surrendered can be a protracted period of time due to the inherent bureaucracies within any governmental agency.

QUESTION FROM THE BRIDGE



I received a call from a Coast Guard officer asking me to come into the local office and to bring my mariner's document. They advised me that there is a complaint to be issued for a failed drug test (marijuana) and voluntary surrender is the best course of action. I have never been involved with marijuana and am hesitant to agree with them. What should I do?
Donald - Portland, OR

Donald,

Get legal assistance immediately! It is best to have legal counsel protect your interests throughout this process. A call from the Coast Guard is not unlike a call from the IRS! You may have a legitimate defense to any allegations. Certainly, there are other things and circumstances that can produce a positive marijuana test and your attorney can pursue a proper defense.

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 with 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. & Associates

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1888CREWLAW or 1888-273-9529

510-444-2501

Fax: 510-444-4209

www.sealawyer.com

299 3rd Street, Oakland CA 94607