

HOW TO FILE AN ADMIRALTY CLAIM AGAINST THE U.S. NAVY

The Admiralty Division adjudicates admiralty tort claims submitted to the Navy for resolution. Generally, these include claims for damage caused by U.S. Navy public vessels or other maritime property of the Navy, or for maritime torts committed by an agent or employee of the Navy.

The Division adjudicates claims arising from collisions, wake damage, damage to piers and shore structures caused by a Navy vessel, visitor injuries, longshoreman and ship repairman injuries, oil pollution damage, etc. The Division also adjudicates salvage awards for salvage of Navy property.

Claims procedures are more fully described at Part 752 of Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

There is no required form or format necessary to submit an admiralty claim to the Admiralty and Maritime Law Division. Send a letter which fully explains the facts and amount claimed. Enclose any substantiating information, documents, charts, diagrams, or relevant photographs. In particular, include any estimates, surveys, purchase receipts, repair invoices, or other documents which may help to substantiate damages. Prompt telephonic notice should be provided in cases requiring joint survey of damage. Mail your claim and substantiating information to the following address:

Office of the Judge Advocate General
Admiralty & Maritime Law Code 11
1322 Patterson Avenue, Suite 3000
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

Claimants will be contacted by return mail and may be asked to provide additional information. In many cases the Division must conduct an investigation before adjudicating a claim. Claims are settled based on application of accepted principles of federal maritime law.

The Navy's settlement authority is limited by a two-year limitation period, which is not extended by the filing of a claim or the mailing of correspondence relating to a claim. This period is not extended by the conduct of settlement negotiations with the Admiralty Division. Payable claims must be approved for settlement prior to expiration of the two year limitation period, although once approved, releases may be executed and settlement checks may be forwarded thereafter.