PANAMA
MARITIME AUTHORITY

Merchant Marine Notice

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

STANDARD GUIDE OF FACTS ON BOARD A PANAMA FLAG SHIP, IN CASES OF THEFT, SEXUAL ASSAULT, NATURAL DEATH, SUICIDE AND HOMICIDE.

No: **MMN-07/2021**

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1. THEFT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT:

- **STEP 1.** The victim of robbery and / or sexual assault on board a Panama flag ship must report the incident to the ship's crew, preferably to the Ship's Security Officer, in order to initiate the corresponding investigation.

- **STEP 2.** The Ship Security Officer will report the incident and send all the documentation through the ship's company format, to the email casualty@amp.gob.pa, corresponding to the Maritime Affairs Investigation Department of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority.

- **STEP 3.** Once the ship arrives at the Port of Call, the victim must file a **THEFT** or **SEXUAL ASSAULT** complaint, before the competent authorities of the country of destination.

- **STEP 4**. The victim of the crime must immediately inform the General Consulate of the Republic of Panama, in the country of destination, attaching copies of the Ship Security Officer´s report and the competent authorities of the country of arrival.

- **STEP 5.** In a case if, the Republic of Panama does not have a General Consulate in the country of destination, the victim must file a complaint of **THEFT** or **SEXUAL ASSAULT** in a Consulate of a friendly nation.

- **STEP 6.** The General Consulate of the Republic of Panama in the country of destination, will coordinate with the local authorities of such nation, the request and due collaboration while the investigation is in process.

- **STEP 7.** The General Consulate of Panama in the country of destination will send all the documentation via email to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama and to the email casualty@amp.gob.pa, corresponding to the Maritime Affairs Investigation Department of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority.

- **STEP 8.** The Maritime Affairs Investigation Department of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine, will verify and examine all the documentation sent by the General Consulate of Panama in the country of destination and if it is satisfied, it will forward it to the Resolutions and Inquiries Department through a detailed report.

- **STEP 9**: The Resolutions and Inquiries Department of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine will examine the documentation received by the Maritime Affairs Investigation Department and if it is satisfactory, it will forward it to the Legal Advice Office of the Panama Maritime Authority, in order to put at knowledge of the punitive act, to the Superior Prosecutor Office for International Affairs of the Public Ministry.

- **STEP 10**. The Superior Prosecutor Office for International Affairs of the Public Ministry, through its investigation, if it has sufficient probable evidence to initiate a Criminal Process against the alleged perpetrator, it will contact the local authorities of the country of destination, in order to coordinate the status of the alleged perpetrator.

- **STEP 11**. If the Superior Prosecutor Office for International Affairs of the Public Ministry were to have sufficient probable evidence against the alleged perpetrator, it will then request the extradition from an order of a Judge of Guarantee of the Accusatory Penal System to the Republic of Panama to appear in Criminal Proceedings against the alleged perpetrator.

- **STEP 12**. The Superior Prosecutor Office for International Affairs of the Public Ministry will coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama, in order to notify the alleged perpetrator through the Embassy of his/her nationality, about the Criminal Proceedings that are taken against, in order to exercise his/her rights.

- **STEP 13.** Once the Superior Prosecutor Office for International Affairs of the Public Ministry is aware of the punitive act and initiates the corresponding investigations, the alleged victim can follow up on the case, through the email ainternacionales@procuraduria.gob.pa.

2. **NATURAL DEATH / SUICIDE:**

- **STEP 14.** The captain of the ship will send the death certificate of the passenger and / or crew member on board the ship and the corresponding report from the authorities of port of destination to the email casualty@amp.gob.pa, corresponding to the Maritime Affairs Investigation Department of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority.

- **STEP 15.** The Maritime Affairs Investigation Department of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority, will verify and examine all the documentation sent by the captain of the ship and if it is in accordance with the requirements of the previous paragraph, it will forward it to the Resolutions and Inquiries Department through a detailed and thorough report.

- **STEP 16**. The Resolutions and Inquiries Department of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine will examine the documentation received by the Maritime Affairs Investigation Department and if it is satisfactory, it will be included in the file of the ship, for the issuance at the request of the interested party, the certificate of death by the flag state.

3. **HOMICIDE:**

- **STEP 17**. The Captain and / or the Ship Security Officer will report the incident and send all the documentation through the ship's company format, to the email casualty@amp.gob.pa, corresponding to the of Maritime Affairs Investigation Department of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority.

- **STEP 18.** Once the ship arrives at the Port of Destination, the Captain and / or Ship Security Officer will inform of the punishable act and will place the alleged perpetrator at the orders of the competent authorities of the country of destination.

- **STEP 19.** The Captain and / or the Ship Security Officer will inform the General Consulate of Panama in the country of destination of the punishable act, which in return, will coordinate with the competent authorities of the country of destination, on the procedure to follow related to the punitive act that happened onboard a Panama flag ship.

- **STEP 20.** Once the General Consulate of Panama has coordinated with the competent authorities of the country of destination, it will send an email to casualty@amp.gob.pa, corresponding to the Maritime Affairs Investigation Department of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority, all the documentation gained in such coordination.

- **STEP 21.** The Maritime Affairs Investigation Department of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority, will verify and examine all the documentation sent by the captain and / or Ship Security Officer, General Consulate of Panama in the country of destination and if it is satisfactory, it will be forward to the of Resolutions and Inquiries Department through a detailed report.

- **STEP 22.** The Resolutions and Inquiries Department of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine will examine the documentation received by the Maritime Affairs Investigation Department and if it is satisfactory, it will forward it to the Office of Legal Advice of the Panama Maritime Authority, in order to put at knowledge of the punitive act, to the Superior Prosecutor Office for International Affairs of the Public Ministry.

- **STEP 23**. Follow STEPS 10, 11, 12, and 13.

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Notice or any other request should be forward to:

Maritime Affairs Investigation Department
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

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Website: https://panamashipregistry.com/marine-category/marine-notices/