

50318 3 2 1 Billy writes from down in Jasper County, "Dear Mr. Cooper. I have a pleasure boat that was damaged when my neighbor's son in law ran into it. What can I recover for in court? I need to know just in case the son in law's character isn't any better than his driving."

Good question, Billy. The usual items of damage recoverable in a pleasure boat property damage case would include, salvage or towage or emergency expenditures, repair costs, diminution in value if repairs do not fully restore the vessel to its pre-casualty value, loss of use if the vessel's provable revenues are interrupted, and pre-judgment interest from the time of the casualty. Of course you must come forward and prove each of these items. I just hope the son in law takes his responsibility seriously.

Dorothy sends her letter all the way from Sumter, "Mr. Cooper, hello. Afore my husband pass, he tol me bout his pleasure boat. He alus say, when he pass, he want his pleasure boat to go to Nicodemus. Well now my problem. I done scoured that dock up an down. . . up an down. None of dem boats give me no pleasure tall. I give up. How do you tell a pleasure boat?"

Excellent question, Dorothy. A pleasure boat is a gift from a relative or friend that needs no maintenance, upkeep, repair, or painting, that requires no expenditure at all, and is always kept at someone else's dock. Now, that's a pleasure boat. . . and they are becoming harder to find.

Capt. Dibble writes from Garden City, "Dear Sir, What is my responsibility, if I see a collision off shore but my boat is not

involved?"

Good question, Capt. If the collision occurs over three nautical miles from shore, your responsibility is fixed by 46 U.S.C. § 2304(a), which provides "A master or individual in charge of a vessel shall render assistance to any individual found at sea in danger of being lost, so far as the master or individual in charge can do so without serious danger to the master's or individual's vessel or individuals on board.

(b) now reads," A master or individual violating this section shall be fined not more than \$1,000, imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both." But rumor has it that (b) may be amended to provide that a master or individual violating this section shall be imprisoned at hard labor for 10 years or, at his option, be appointed to serve on the Charleston Naval Complex Redevelopment Authority for two weeks.

More next week on The Admiralty Docket. Until then, remember your rights and responsibilities may change as you approach the shore and may God Almighty grant you pleasant sailing. 50318

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