(Pub. L. 98–89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 574.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	*Source section (U.S. Code)*
10708	46:628

Section 10708 permits a district court to sell a deceased seaman's property and treat the proceeds as wages.

§ 10709. Distribution

(a)(1) If the money, property, and wages of a seaman, including proceeds from the sale of property, are not more than $1,500 in value, the court, subject to deductions it allows for expenses and at least 60 days after receiving the money, property, and wages, may deliver the money, property, and wages to a claimant proving to be—

(A) the seaman's surviving spouse or child;

(B) entitled to the money, property, and wages under the seaman's will or under a law or at common law; or

(C) entitled to secure probate, or take out letters of administration, although no probate or letters of administration have been issued.

(2) The court is released from further liability for the money, property, and wages distributed under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(3) Instead of acting under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, the court may require probate or letters of administration to be taken out, and then deliver the money, property, and wages to the legal representative of the seaman.

(b) If the money, property, and wages are more than $1,500 in value, the court, subject to deductions for expenses, shall deliver the money, property, and wages to the legal representative of the seaman.

(Pub. L. 98–89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 574; Pub. L. 99–307, § 1(15), May 19, 1986, 100 Stat. 446.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	*Source section (U.S. Code)*
10709	46:627

Section 10709 instructs a district court to deliver a deceased seaman's property and wages to the proper claimant or legal representative. It also discharges the court from liability.

AMENDMENTS

1986—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 99–307, in text preceding cl. (A), substituted ''than $1,500 in value, the court,'' for ''then $1,500 in value, and'' and ''wages, may'' for ''wages, the court may''.

§ 10710. Unclaimed money, property, and wages

(a) When a claim for the money, property, or wages of a deceased seaman held by a district court of the United States has not been substantiated within 6 years after their receipt by the court, the court, if a subsequent claim is made, may allow or refuse the claim.

(b) If, after money, property, and wages have been held by the court for 6 years, it appears to the court that no claim will have to be satisfied, the property shall be sold. The money and wages and the proceeds from the sale shall be deposited in the Treasury trust fund receipt account ''Unclaimed Moneys of Individuals Whose Whereabouts are Unknown''.

(Pub. L. 98–89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 574.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	*Source section (U.S. Code)*
10710	46:628

Section 10710 provides that if no claim is made to a deceased seaman's property and wages within six years, the court shall sell the property and deposit the proceeds into the Treasury trust fund receipt account ''Unclaimed Moneys of Individuals Whose Whereabouts are Unknown''.

§ 10711. Penalties

An owner or master violating this chapter are each liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of 3 times the value of the seaman's money, property, and wages involved or, if the value is not determined, of $200.

(Pub. L. 98–89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 574.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	*Source section (U.S. Code)*
10711	46:623

Section 10711 provides penalties for masters and owners violating this chapter.

CHAPTER 109—PROCEEDINGS ON UNSEAWORTHINESS

Sec.
10901. Application.
10902. Complaints of unfitness.
10903. Proceedings on examination of vessel.
10904. Refusal to proceed.
10905. Complaints in foreign ports.
10906. Discharge of crew for unsuitability.
10907. Permission to make complaint.
10908. Penalty for sending unseaworthy vessel to sea.

§ 10901. Application

This chapter applies to a vessel of the United States except a fishing or whaling vessel or a yacht.

(Pub. L. 98–89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 575.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	*Source section (U.S. Code)*
10901	46:653 46:654 46:655 46:656 46:658

Section 10901 provides that chapter 109 applies to all vessels of the United States except fishing vessels, whaling vessels or yachts.

§ 10902. Complaints of unfitness

(a)(1) If the chief and second mates or a majority of the crew of a vessel ready to begin a voyage discover, before the vessel leaves harbor, that the vessel is unfit as to crew, hull, equipment, tackle, machinery, apparel, furniture, provisions of food or water, or stores to proceed on the intended voyage and require the unfitness to be inquired into, the master immediately shall apply to the district court of the