

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

<b>UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,</b>	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	Docket Number: 2025-0312
v.	)	
	)	MISLE Activity ID: 8144990
<b>ERIC SPENCER ODELL MATHEWSON,</b>	)	
Respondent.	)	

**DEFAULT ORDER**

This matter comes before me on the United States Coast Guard’s (Coast Guard) Motion for Default Order. As of the date of this Order, Eric Spencer Odell Mathewson (Respondent) has not answered the Coast Guard’s Complaint or responded to the Motion. Upon review of the record and pertinent authority, the Coast Guard’s Motion is **GRANTED**.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On July 9, 2025, the Coast Guard filed a Complaint alleging Respondent has been the user of a dangerous drug as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7704(b). The Return of Service for the Complaint indicates Federal Express delivered the Complaint to Respondent’s residence where a person of suitable age and discretion signed for the Complaint on June 18, 2025.

On August 4, 2025, the Coast Guard filed this Motion arguing Respondent failed to file an Answer within the time allotted (i.e., within 20 days or less of service of the complaint) and asserting Respondent never requested an extension. See 33 C.F.R. § 20.308(a). The Return of Service for the Motion indicates Federal Express delivered it to Respondent’s residence on July 31, 2025, and “E.Odell” signed the delivery receipt. Thereafter, the Chief Administrative Law Judge assigned the matter to me on August 25, 2025.

The regulations require a respondent to “file a written answer to the complaint 20 days or less after service of the complaint.” 33 C.F.R. § 20.308(a). “The ALJ may find a respondent in default upon failure to file a timely answer to the complaint without good cause shown.” 33 C.F.R. § 20.310(a). Default constitutes an admission of all facts alleged in a complaint and a waiver of Respondent’s right to a hearing on those facts. 33 C.F.R. § 20.310(c); see also 33 C.F.R. § 20.308(d) (“[R]espondent’s failure without good cause to file an answer admits each allegation made in the complaint.”).

The Complaint filed by the Coast Guard and properly served on Respondent included instructions that clearly stated, “YOU MUST RESPOND TO THIS COMPLAINT WITHIN 20 DAYS” and provided the applicable regulatory provision—33 C.F.R. § 20.308. The instructions also informed Respondent an extension of time could be requested “within 20 days” of receipt.” As of the date of this Order, Respondent has not filed an Answer, a response to the Motion, nor a request for an extension of time. Accordingly, I find Respondent in **DEFAULT** pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 20.310(a).

As noted above, default constitutes an admission of all facts alleged in the complaint and a waiver of the right to a hearing. 33 C.F.R. § 20.308(d); 33 C.F.R. § 20.310(c); see Appeal Decision 2682 (REEVES) (2008). Furthermore, after review of the factual allegations in the Complaint, I find they are legally sufficient to find Respondent has been the user of a dangerous drug, and therefore, the Complaint is **PROVED** by admission. Id. Based on this finding, I also agree the facts alleged in the Complaint warrant the sanction of **REVOCATION**. See 46 U.S.C. § 7704(b); 46 C.F.R. § 5.35.

**WHEREFORE,**

**ORDER**

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, all of Respondent's Coast Guard issued credentials, including Respondent's Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC), are **REVOKED**.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, Respondent shall immediately deliver all Coast Guard issued credentials, licenses, certificates, or documents, including the MMC, by mail, courier service, or in person to: **CWO-3 Wayne Bush, United States Coast Guard, Sector Key West, 100 Trumbo Point Road, Key West, FL 33040**. In accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 2197, if Respondent knowingly continues to use the Coast Guard issued MMC, Respondent may be subject to criminal prosecution.

**RESPONDENT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED**, pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 20.310(e), for good cause shown, an ALJ may set aside a finding of default. A motion to set aside a finding of default may be filed with the ALJ Docketing Center in Baltimore. The motion may be sent to the U.S. Coast Guard Administrative Law Judge Docketing Center; Attention: Hearing Docket Clerk; Room 412; 40 S. Gay Street; Baltimore, MD 21202-4022.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, service of this Default Order on the parties serves as notice of appeal rights set forth in 33 C.F.R. §§ 20.1001 through 20.1004 (Attachment A).

**SO ORDERED.**

Done and dated September 17, 2025,  
at Houston, Texas

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Cantrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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TOMMY CANTRELL  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD