

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	Docket Number: 2026-0063
vs.	)	
	)	MISLE Activity ID: 8302095
ROBERT JOSEPH CARDINAL JR,	)	
Respondent.	)	

CONSENT ORDER

Issued: April 23, 2026

By Order of Administrative Law Judge: Hon. Jennifer A. Mehaffey

Appearances:

For the Coast Guard

Daniel B. Schaefer, Esq.
USCG Suspension and Revocation National Center of Expertise

Jason U. Bartholomew
Jessica L. Ward
USCG Sector Detroit

For the Respondent

Scott R. Gunst, Jr., Esq.
BIGGS & GUNST P.C.

CONSENT ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

On February 9, 2026, the Coast Guard filed a Complaint against Robert Joseph Cardinal Jr. (Respondent) seeking to outright suspend his Merchant Mariner Credential for six (6) months. On April 21, 2026, the Coast Guard filed a Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement and Entry of Consent Order, containing the Settlement Agreement to be approved as a settlement of this case under 33 C.F.R. § 20.502.

As evidenced by their respective signature, the parties assert that settlement is in the public interest and appropriate based on Respondent's cooperation and good faith efforts towards remediation. The parties also agree the entry of a Consent Order approving this settlement without further litigation is the proper means of resolution in this matter. Accordingly, the parties have expressly waived their right to a hearing and appeal in this matter and I have not conducted a hearing on the merits of this case. I have carefully reviewed the terms of the Settlement Agreement and find that it is fair, reasonable, and in substantial compliance with the requirements of 33 C.F.R. § 20.502.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, the Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement and Entry of Consent Order is **GRANTED**, and the Settlement Agreement is **APPROVED** in full and incorporated herein by reference. This Consent Order shall constitute full, final, and complete adjudication of this proceeding.

Done and dated April 23, 2026
New York, NY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MehaFFEY", is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

HON. JENNIFER A. MEHAFFEY
Administrative Law Judge
United States Coast Guard