



Eligibility Criteria for Seafarer Ex-Gratia Benefit

Part I - Introduction

The Cayman Islands Government provides an ex-gratia benefit to retired Caymanian Seafarers or their surviving spouse, in recognition of their contribution to these Islands. The following are the criteria for eligibility for this benefit. Please read carefully and ensure that all necessary documentation is returned along with the attached completed application form.

All new applicants and current recipients of the Seafarer Ex-Gratia Benefit will be subjected to review if any irregularities are found on their files. In addition, the Department reserves the right to recall or request any funds which have been erroneously paid to a Seafarer or surviving spouse, such funds must be refunded in full to the Cayman Islands Government in accordance with section 41 (1) (c) of the Public Management Finance Act (2020 Revision).

Please answer all the questions in the attached form. If you are unable to answer any of the questions please give as much information as you can. For the questions you have been unable to answer, the Unit will contact you or make other enquiries to enable us to process your application.

Complete and return the application to the Cayman Islands Seafarer's Association, the Department of Financial Assistance (DFA) or via e-mail to SeafarerGrantApplication@gov.ky. Periodic status updates will be provided by the Department.

CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone: (345) 946-0024 | Email: SeafarerGrantApplication@gov.ky
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 895, Grand Cayman KY1-1103 Cayman Islands
55 Seafarers Way, 1st Floor Aqua Mall, George Town, Grand Cayman.

Part II - Definitions

- 1.1 **Ex-Gratia:** “A sum of money paid when there was no obligation or liability to pay it”.
- 1.2 **Caymanian:** means a person who possesses Caymanian status under the repealed Immigration Act (2015 Revision) or any earlier law providing for the same or similar rights, and includes a person who acquired that status under part 5 of the Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision). Applicants must be born Caymanian or have had Caymanian Status at the time of qualifying service.

The only exceptions to the above are:

- a) Seafarer registered prior to 1984 changes to the Immigration Law.
- b) Seafarer who possesses a letter from the Chief Immigration Officer acknowledging their possession of Caymanian Status or citizenship.
- c) Seafarer who can prove that both of their parents were Caymanian at birth or mother was Caymanian at birth or that their father was Caymanian and was married to their mother at birth.

All other applicants deemed unable to provide the above documents will be reviewed by Cabinet for a final decision to be made.

- 1.3 **Qualifying service:** Having been to sea for a period of not less than three years. If the applicant is not a born Caymanian he/she should have had Caymanian Status for at least three years of his/her seagoing career.
- 1.4 **Seafarer:** A professional seafarer or their spouse is a sailor or officer that went to sea before the 1 January 1985 and who received pay or gratuity for assisting in the international transport of a ship, boat or vessel, cargo, and/or passenger from one port to another.
- 1.5 **Died at Sea:** To die at sea during active duty on a ship/boat.
- 1.6 **Surviving spouse of Seafarer:** An individual who was married to a Seafarer at the time of death. Divorcees are not eligible. If a surviving spouse, widow or eligible former spouse remarries, they will lose eligibility.
- 1.7 **Resident:** For the purpose of this criterion, a resident is a person who maintains residency in the Cayman Islands for a period of not less than eight (8) months per year.

Note: The DFA reserves the right to request any pertinent information from the Seafarer or surviving spouse that will assist in determining their place of permanent residence.

Part III - The Applicant

- 2.1 The applicant must be a Seafarer or surviving spouse of a Seafarer.
- 2.2 The applicant must be Caymanian.
- 2.3 The applicant must have at least three years' qualifying service.
- 2.4 The Applicant must be sixty years (60) of age or older at the time of application; The only exceptions to the above are:
 - a) The applicant Seafarer is disabled and unable to work. This must be proven by a medical certificate from a Registered Practitioner in the Cayman Islands.
- 2.5 The Applicant **MUST NOT** be receiving the Ex-Servicemen Benefit from the Cayman Islands Government.
- 2.6 A Caymanian Seafarer or surviving spouse must be resident in the Cayman Islands.

The only exception to the above is:

- a) Travel for medical reasons. In this case, the Unit requires;
 1. A medical certificate from a Registered Practitioner in the Cayman Islands.
 2. Proof of property owned in the Cayman Islands.
 3. Utility Bill in your name in the Cayman Islands.
 4. Travel history which can be obtained from the Cayman Islands Immigration Department.

These documents must be provided to the Department responsible for the Seafarer ExGratia Benefit in order for the application to be considered for the Seafarer ExGratia Benefit.

- 2.7 The Seafarer must submit their discharge papers if they are available. An Affidavit of Time Spent At Sea is included in the attached Seafarer Application Form. The form **MUST** be signed by the Cayman Islands Seafarer's Association or the Veterans & Seafarer Society for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. In order for the Association/Society to sign off on the form, the signees must be members of the respective Association/Society.
- 2.8 Surviving spouse upon applying will be processed immediately (subject to the availability of funds). Should the surviving spouse remarry, benefits will cease upon remarriage.
- 2.9 The Seafarer Ex-Gratia Benefit Criteria for eligibility should be reviewed every three years.

Note: Identification will be required when collecting cheques. If anyone other than the applicant will be collecting the cheque, all relevant details pertaining to this person should be on the Seafarer's file or the individual should have a notarized letter from the Seafarer or their surviving spouse giving authorization for collection of the cheque on their behalf. The letter must be presented with a valid photo identification.