

Miami-Dade Circuit Court

Royal Caribbean not liable for waiter's herniated disks

A jury rejected a claim by a former Royal Caribbean Cruise Line waiter that his job was unreasonably dangerous and resulted in neck injuries.

Mustafa Kayaci, 38, claimed that he quit after sustaining two cervical herniations that eventually required fusions. He claimed that he was required to put too many plates on his trays and he'd end up carrying 50 pounds.

Counsel for Royal Caribbean argued that the safety standards for its waiters were in line with those of restaurants on shore: Waiters were allowed to determine how many plates they place on a tray, with a limit of 16 plates.

Case: Kayaci v. Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.

Case no.: 04-10301CA23

Plaintiff lawyers: Steven Hunter, Hunter Williams & Lynch, Miami; Jerrold K. Wingate, Wingate Law Firm, Miami

Defense lawyers: Jerry D. Hamilton and Hector Ramirez, Hamilton & Miller, Miami