

Trip Trades Involving Cash

One of the most frequent calls for Professional Standards assistance is regarding trades for cash. Sometimes cash is posted on a trade and the Flight Attendant will not pay or there is disagreement over the amount of cash posted. Here are a few suggestions that may help if you are ever involved in a trade for cash dispute.

If you post a trade for cash:

- Pay on time.
- Do not bounce checks.
- Return your calls and emails.
- If you cannot pay, please communicate with the person who worked your trip and work out a payment agreement. Then pay as agreed.
- If entering multiple trades always double check that you have deleted the comments from the last trade entered. The comment will show on the next trade posted and you may find yourself obligated for cash for that one also.

If you pick up a trade for cash:

- Always print the comments section from the trade board. Some home computers have the capability to do so by hitting keys "control P" at the same time. If you are unable to print the comments screen then print the trip and write exactly what was written in comments on your printout. Keep copies until paid.
- Allow the posting Flight Attendant time to respond and send payment.
- Try compassion first. Occasionally a Flight Attendant will find that they are short of cash. This can be an embarrassment for him or her. Graciously offer to take payments.
- Personalize what hardships the nonpayment has caused in your life, i.e.; had to pay a sitter, extra eating out, gas money etc.
- Don't give up sometimes persistence, in a professional manner, may work. Never threaten, harass or intimidate.
- This is not a Grievance matter.
- Don't contact Inflight Management with disputes over cash trades, these are personal trades and Inflight cannot force a Flight Attendant to pay. Your AFA Professional Standards Rep will assist if you as a last resort if you are unable to collect. The bad news is we are not collectors and cannot make someone pay either. Good news if the Flight Attendant does pay we won't charge you a percentage like a collection agency would.

For those Flight Attendants who are using a Mac system:

1. Hold down the Shift key. Continue to hold down this key while depressing the key that is second from the left on the bottom row of the keyboard (I don't know what the name of this key is). While holding down the Shift key and the second key, depress the F3 key.
2. Mac will automatically save this as Picture 1 (unless there are other Pictures in which case it will be the next sequence number) on the hard drive.
3. Flight Attendants can then print the document and delete it from their hard drive if they do not want these pictures taking up space in their system.

Very rarely there will be someone who for whatever reason will not pay. Remember that these types of Flight Attendants are few. Most are great Flight Attendants who will pay on time and deeply appreciate it when their trips are picked up from the board.

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