



# FAA Proposes Nearly \$65k In Fines Against Five Unruly Passengers

by **Jay Singh** · May 24, 2021 · ⌚ 3 minute read

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The United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has proposed fines against five passengers. The passengers have all allegedly engaged in some level of disobedience inflight. In total, the penalties against five passengers total nearly \$65,000.



The FAA is cracking down on unruly passengers with significant fines. Photo: Getty Images

## The first incident

The first fine is to a passenger who flew [JetBlue](#) on February 22nd from Miami to Los Angeles. This passenger, seated in economy, allegedly received a glass of champagne, headset, and food from a passenger sitting in the Mint cabin. The flight attendant noticed and brought the items back to the [Mint cabin](#), where they belonged.

The passenger seated in economy class started to yell obscenities at the flight attendant and followed them to the Mint cabin, where they assaulted the flight attendant. The passenger allegedly hit the crewmember with her body, nearly pushing him into the lavatory. The aircraft diverted to Austin, where the passenger in economy was offloaded. She faces a \$15,000 fine.

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The captain of the JetBlue flight decided to divert to Austin to offload the passenger. Photo: Getty Images

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## The second and third incidents



alcohol onboard. In violation of federal regulations, he also talked on his cell phone during the flight.

Flight attendants warned the passenger about those activities, though he did not heed those warnings and allegedly repeatedly yelled at the flight attendant. This passenger faces a \$15,000 fine.

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The third incident references a flight from Washington-Dulles to Seattle on Alaska Airlines on January 7th. A passenger allegedly pushed a flight attendant when she walked down the aisle to document which passengers were not wearing a mask. This passenger faces a \$15,000 fine, as well.



## The fourth incident

The fourth incident pertains to a JetBlue flight from Orlando to New York City. According to the FAA, a passenger refused to wear a mask or else was not wearing it correctly. Even after flight attendants repeatedly instructed the man to wear it properly, he failed to comply and used profanity against the crewmembers.

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Flight attendants tried to explain the requirement to the passenger, who did continue to yell profanities at the crewmembers. Flight attendants notified the captain. Ground staff boarded the aircraft and asked the man to get off of the aircraft. He then turned combative and irate.



The passenger in the fourth incident is facing a \$10,500 fine. Photo: Getty Images

The captain then called for law enforcement, who were able to successfully offload him from the flight, though the passenger was screaming at a flight attendant while coming off of the aircraft. He faces a \$10,500 fine after delaying the flight by nearly 30 minutes.

## The fifth incident

The final incident occurred onboard a Southwest Airlines flight from Oakland to Houston on February 20th. Allegedly, a flight attendant asked a passenger to pull his mask over his nose, but the passenger refused to comply. After the flight attendant gave the passenger a mask, he threw it on the floor and refused to wear it.

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A Southwest flight from California to Texas was impacted by an unruly passenger earlier this year. Photo: Getty Images.

The flight attendant explained the mask mandate to the man, though he stated he would not comply and that the policy would not be enforced in Texas. The crew altered the captain, and law enforcement met the aircraft when it arrived in Houston. He faces a \$9,000 fine.

## The FAA's zero-tolerance policy

In January, after the insurrection at the US Capitol, [FAA Administrator Steve Dickson](#) signed an order directing for a [stricter enforcement policy against unruly airline passengers](#), citing January 6th and ongoing refusals from passengers to wear a mask.

This zero-tolerance policy levies fines against passengers who threaten, interfere with or assault an aircraft crew or other passengers. More severe cases can even lead to imprisonment and criminal fines.

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[Air travel is still under a mask mandate](#) through the fall. Since last year, airlines have had mask requirements in place, though now it is backed by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

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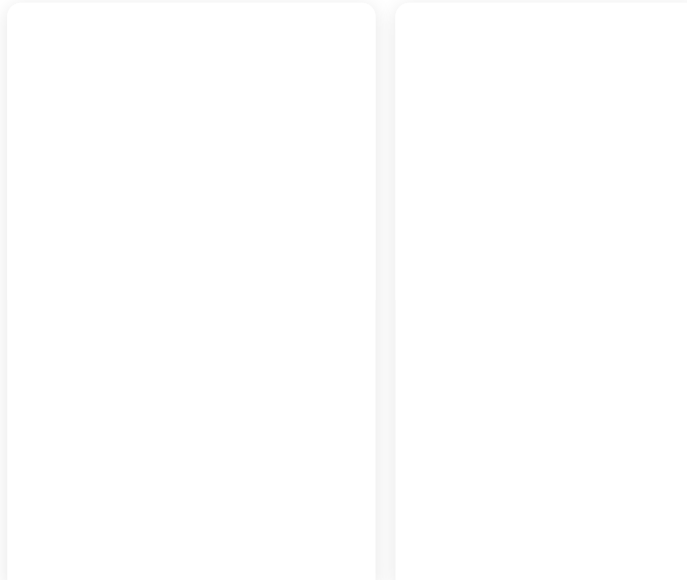
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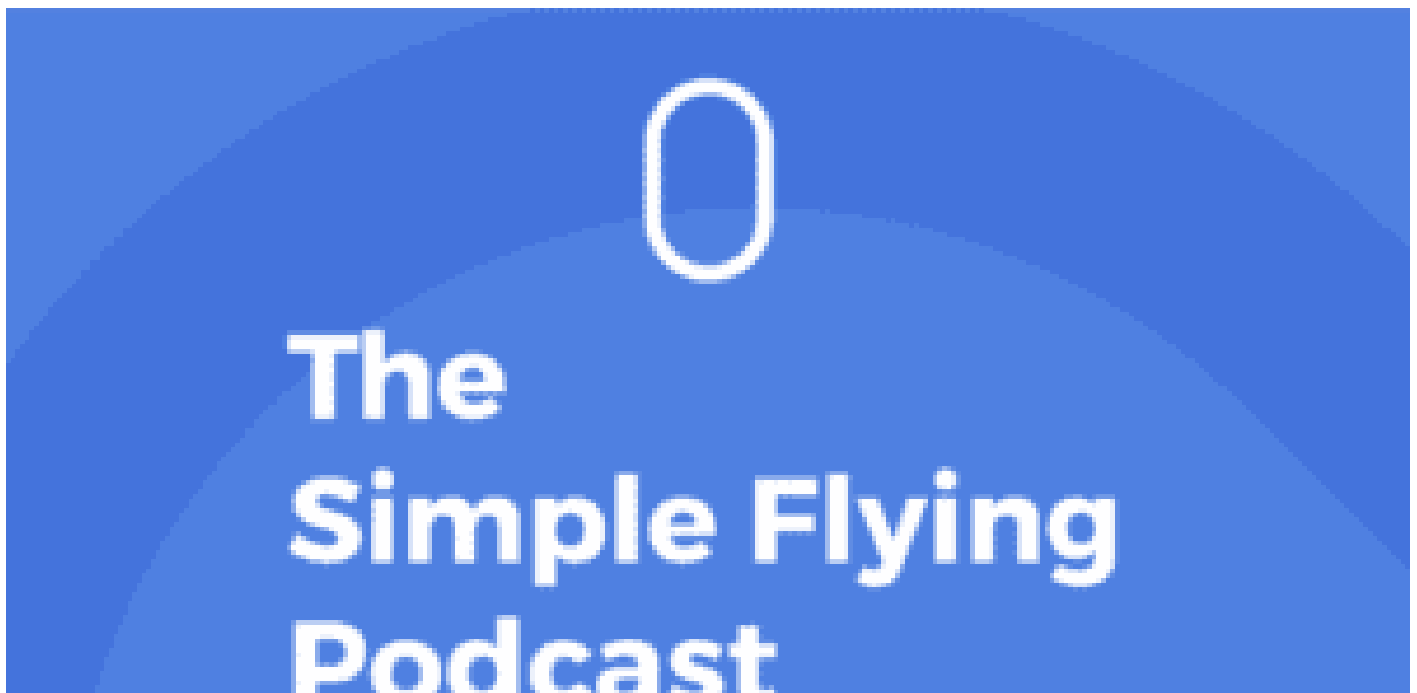
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