

# TITLE 2

## PROCEDURE IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

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### Chapter 12

1989 EDITION

#### Limitations of Actions and Suits

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**GENERALLY****12.010 Time of commencing actions.**

Actions shall only be commenced within the periods prescribed in this chapter, after the cause of action shall have accrued, except where a different limitation is prescribed by statute. [Amended by 1979 c.284 §43]

**12.020 When action deemed begun. (1)**

Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, for the purpose of determining whether an action has been commenced within the time limited, an action shall be deemed commenced as to each defendant, when the complaint is filed, and the summons served on the defendant, or on a codefendant who is a joint contractor, or otherwise united in interest with the defendant.

(2) If the first publication of summons or other service of summons in an action occurs before the expiration of 60 days after the date on which the complaint in the action was filed, the action against each person of whom the court by such service has acquired jurisdiction shall be deemed to have been commenced upon the date on which the complaint in the action was filed. [Amended by 1973 c.731 §1]

12.030 [Repealed by 1973 c.731 §2]

**12.040 Limitations of suits generally; land patent suits; defense of possession by equitable title; suit on new promise, fraud or mistake. (1)** A suit shall only be commenced within the time limited to commence an action as provided in this chapter; and a suit for the determination of any right or claim to or interest in real property shall be deemed within the limitations provided for actions for the recovery of the possession of real property.

(2) No suit shall be maintained to set aside, cancel, annul, or otherwise affect a patent to lands issued by the United States or this state, or to compel any person claiming or holding under such patent to convey the lands described therein, or any portion of them, to the plaintiff in such suit, or to hold the same in trust for, or to the use and benefit of such plaintiff, or on account of any matter, thing or transaction which was had, done, suffered or transpired prior to the date of such patent, unless such suit is commenced within 10 years from the date of such patent.

(3) This section shall not bar an equitable owner in possession of real property from defending possession by means of the equitable title; and in any action for the recovery of any real property, or the possession thereof, by any person or persons claiming or holding the legal title to the same under

such patent against any person or persons in possession of such real property under any equitable title, or having in equity the right to the possession thereof as against the plaintiff in such action, such equitable right of possession may be pleaded by answer in such action, or set up by bill in equity to enjoin such action or execution upon any judgment rendered therein; and the right of such equitable owner to defend possession in such action, or by bill for injunction, shall not be barred by lapse of time while an action for the possession of such real property is not barred.

(4) In a suit upon a new promise, fraud or mistake, the limitation shall only be deemed to commence from the making of the new promise or the discovery of the fraud or mistake.

**12.050 Action to recover real property.**

An action for the recovery of real property, or for the recovery of the possession thereof, shall be commenced within 10 years. No action shall be maintained for such recovery unless it appear that the plaintiff, an ancestor, predecessor, or grantor was seized or possessed of the premises in question within 10 years before the commencement of the action.

**12.060 Suit or action on land contracts; time when they cease to affect the property. (1)**

Unless suit or action to enforce a contract for the sale of real property is instituted in the county in which the real property is situated within five years from the date of maturity of the final payment provided for in the contract, or from the date to which the final payment shall have been extended by agreement of record, the contract shall not thereafter be a lien, encumbrance, or cloud on the title of the property.

(2) When the purchase price fixed in the contract is payable in instalments, the contract shall be deemed to mature on the date upon which the final payment would be payable if the minimum amount of the principal due on each instalment had been paid as provided in the terms of the contract.

**12.070 Action on judgment, decree or sealed instrument. (1)** An action upon a judgment or decree of any court of the United States, or of any state or territory within the United States; or

(2) An action upon a sealed instrument entered into before August 13, 1965,

shall be commenced within 10 years. [Amended by 1965 c.502 §3]

**12.080 Action on certain contracts or liabilities: (1)** An action upon a contract or liability, express or implied, excepting those

mentioned in ORS 12.070 and 12.110 and except as otherwise provided in ORS 72.7250;

(2) An action upon a liability created by statute, other than a penalty or forfeiture, excepting those mentioned in ORS 12.110;

(3) An action for waste or trespass upon or for interference with or injury to any interest of another in real property, excepting those mentioned in ORS 12.050, 12.060, 12.137 and 273.241; or

(4) An action for taking, detaining or injuring personal property, including an action for the specific recovery thereof, excepting an action mentioned in ORS 12.137;

shall be commenced within six years. [Amended by 1957 c 374 §3, 1971 c 726 §396, 1973 c.363 §1, 1983 c 437 §2; 1987 c 705 §3]

**12.085 Action on certain garnishment proceedings.** Garnishment proceedings pursuant to ORS 29.285 to 29.345 shall be commenced within one year from the delivery of the writ of garnishment under ORS 29.155. [1977 c.786 §3, 1981 c 883 §29]

**12.090 Accounts; accrual of cause of action.** In an action to recover a balance due upon an account, the cause of action shall be deemed to have accrued from the time of the last charge or payment proved in the account. Interest, financing and carrying charges shall not be deemed such a charge. [Amended by 1973 c.204 §1]

**12.100 Action on official action or penalty.** (1) An action against a sheriff or constable upon a liability incurred by the doing of an act in an official capacity and in virtue of the office of the sheriff or constable; or by the omission of an official duty, including the nonpayment of money collected upon an execution, but not including an action for an escape, shall be commenced within three years.

(2) An action upon a statute for penalty or forfeiture, where the action is given to the party aggrieved, or to such party and the state, excepting those actions mentioned in ORS 12.110, shall be commenced within three years. [Amended by 1957 c.374 §4; 1965 c.221 §10]

**12.110 Actions for certain injuries to person not arising on contract; action for overtime or premium pay; action for professional malpractice; effect of fraud or deceit; action for injuries to person arising from nuclear incident.** (1) An action for assault, battery, false imprisonment, or for any injury to the person or rights of another, not arising on contract, and not especially enumerated in this chapter, shall be commenced within two years; provided, that in an action at law based upon fraud or deceit, the limitation shall be deemed to commence only from the discovery of the fraud or deceit.

(2) An action upon a statute for a forfeiture or penalty to the state or county shall be commenced within two years.

(3) An action for overtime or premium pay or for penalties or liquidated damages for failure to pay overtime or premium pay shall be commenced within two years.

(4) An action to recover damages for injuries to the person arising from any medical, surgical or dental treatment, omission or operation shall be commenced within two years from the date when the injury is first discovered or in the exercise of reasonable care should have been discovered. However, notwithstanding the provisions of ORS 12.160, every such action shall be commenced within five years from the date of the treatment, omission or operation upon which the action is based or, if there has been no action commenced within five years because of fraud, deceit or misleading representation, then within two years from the date such fraud, deceit or misleading representation is discovered or in the exercise of reasonable care should have been discovered.

(5) An action, arising from a nuclear incident, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 2014(q), that involves the release of radioactive material, excluding releases from acts of war, that causes bodily injury, sickness or death, shall be commenced:

(a) Within two years from the time an injured person discovers or reasonably could have discovered the injury and the causal connection between the injury and the nuclear incident; or

(b) Within two years from any substantial change in the degree of injury to the person arising out of a nuclear incident. [Amended by 1957 c 374 §1, 1967 c.406 §1; 1969 c.642 §1; 1971 c.473 §1; 1975 c.796 §10a; 1981 c.149 §1; 1987 c.705 §4]

**12.115 Action for negligent injury to person or property.** (1) In no event shall any action for negligent injury to person or property of another be commenced more than 10 years from the date of the act or omission complained of.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to extend any period of limitation otherwise established by law, including but not limited to the limitations established by ORS 12.110. [1967 c.406 §2]

**12.117 Actions based on child abuse.** (1) Notwithstanding ORS 12.110, 12.115 or 12.160, an action based on child abuse or conduct knowingly allowing, permitting or encouraging child abuse accruing while the person who is entitled to bring the action is within 18 years of age shall be commenced not more than five years after that person attains 18 years of age.

(2) As used in subsection (1) of this section, "child abuse" means any of the following:

(a) Intentional conduct by an adult that results in:

(A) Any physical injury to a child; or

(B) Any mental injury to a child which results in observable and substantial impairment of the child's mental or psychological ability to function caused by cruelty to the child, with due regard to the culture of the child;

(b) Sexual abuse of a child, including but not limited to rape, sodomy, sexual abuse, sexual penetration with a foreign object and incest, as those acts are defined in ORS chapter 163; or

(c) Sexual exploitation of a child, including but not limited to:

(A) Conduct constituting violation of ORS 163.435 and any other conduct which allows, employs, authorizes, permits, induces or encourages a child to engage in the performing for people to observe or the photographing, filming, tape recording or other exhibition which, in whole or in part, depicts sexual conduct or contact; and

(B) Allowing, permitting, encouraging or hiring a child to engage in prostitution, as defined in ORS chapter 167.

(3) Nothing in this section creates a new cause of action or enlarges any existing cause of action. [1989 c.643 §§2, 3]

**12.120 Action on escape.** (1) An action against a sheriff or other officer for the escape of a prisoner arrested or imprisoned on civil process; or

(2) An action for libel or slander

shall be commenced within one year. [Amended by 1957 c.374 §2]

**12.125 Action arising under rental agreement.** An action arising under a rental agreement or ORS 90.100 to 90.940 shall be commenced within one year. [1973 c.559 §39]

**12.130 Action for penalty.** An action upon a statute for a penalty given in whole or in part to the person who will prosecute for the same, shall be commenced within one year after the commission of the offense; and if the action is not commenced within one year by a private party, it may be commenced within two years thereafter, in behalf of the state, by the district attorney of the county where the offense was committed or is triable.

**12.133 Action arising out of integration of retirement plan.** Any of the following actions shall be commenced within one year from the effective date of a contract

of integration created as provided in ORS 237.051 (3):

(1) An action in respect to a retirement plan adopted by an association organized pursuant to the provisions of ORS chapter 239, prior to April 8, 1953, and existing on April 8, 1953, and against the association or nonprofit corporation that adopted the plan, the board of trustees of that association or nonprofit corporation, any individual trustee, or any officer, employee or agent of the association or nonprofit corporation or board of trustees.

(2) An action arising out of the integration of a retirement plan adopted by an association organized pursuant to the provisions of ORS chapter 239, prior to April 8, 1953, and existing on April 8, 1953, into the retirement system established by ORS chapter 237. [1983 c.589 §2]

**12.135 Action for damages from construction, alteration or repair of improvement to real property; "substantial completion" defined; application.** (1) An action against a person, whether in contract, tort or otherwise, arising from such person having performed the construction, alteration or repair of any improvement to real property or the supervision or inspection thereof, or from such person having furnished the design, planning, surveying, architectural or engineering services for such improvement, shall be commenced within the applicable period of limitation otherwise established by law; but in any event such action shall be commenced within 10 years from substantial completion of such construction, alteration or repair of the improvement to real property.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section, "substantial completion" means the date when the contractee accepts in writing the construction, alteration or repair of the improvement to real property or any designated portion thereof as having reached that state of completion when it may be used or occupied for its intended purpose or, if there is no such written acceptance, the date of acceptance of the completed construction, alteration or repair of such improvement by the contractee.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section:

(a) Applies, in addition to other actions, to actions brought in the name of the state or any county or other public corporation therein, or for its benefit; and

(b) Does not apply to actions against any person in actual possession and control of the improvement, as owner, tenant or otherwise, at the time such cause of action accrues. [1971 c.664 §§2, 3, 4; 1983 c.437 §1]

**Note:** Sections 2 and 3, chapter 704, Oregon Laws 1989, relating to certain actions against the manufacturers, distributors or sellers of asbestos, provide:

**Sec. 2.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a civil action for property damage against a manufacturer, distributor or seller of asbestos or asbestos-containing building materials shall be commenced by the owner of any private, nonprofit elementary or secondary school building not later than two years after the effective date of this 1989 Act [October 3, 1989].

(2) For the purposes of this section, "nonprofit elementary or secondary school" and "school building" have the meanings given in 15 U.S.C. 2642. [1989 c 704 §2]

**Sec. 3.** This Act applies only to causes of action arising on or before the effective date of this Act [October 3, 1989] [1989 c.704 §3]

**12.137 Action for loss of or damage to property arising from nuclear incident.**

(1) An action, arising from a nuclear incident that involves the release of radioactive material, excluding releases from acts of war, that causes loss of or damage to property, or loss of use of property shall be commenced:

(a) Within two years from the time an injured person discovers or reasonably could have discovered the injury to property and the causal connection between the injury and the nuclear incident; or

(b) Within two years from any substantial change in the degree of injury to the property arising out of a nuclear incident.

(2) As used in this section, "nuclear incident" has the meaning given that term in 42 U.S.C. 2014(q).

(3) In no event shall any action under subsection (1) of this section or ORS 12.110 (5) be commenced more than 30 years from the date of the nuclear incident. [1987 c 705 §§1, 2]

**Note:** 12.137 was enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but was not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 12 or any series therein by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

**12.140 Actions not otherwise provided for.** An action for any cause not otherwise provided for shall be commenced within 10 years.

**12.150 Suspension of running of statute by absence or concealment.** If, when a cause of action accrues against any person, the person is out of the state and service cannot be made within the state or the person is concealed therein, such action may be commenced within the applicable period of limitation in this chapter after the return of the person into the state, or after the termination of the concealment of the person; and if, after a cause of action has accrued against a person, the person shall depart from and reside out of this state, or if the person is concealed therein, the time of the absence or concealment of the person shall not be

deemed or taken as any part of the time limited for the commencement of such action. [Amended by 1973 c.206 §1, 1987 c 158 §4]

**12.155 Effect of notice of advance payment on running of period of limitation.** (1) If the person who makes an advance payment referred to in ORS 18.520 or 18.530 gives to each person entitled to recover damages for the death, injury or destruction, not later than 30 days after the date the first of such advance payments was made, written notice of the date of expiration of the period of limitation for the commencement of an action for damages set by the applicable statute of limitations, then the making of any such advance payment does not suspend the running of such period of limitation. The notice required by this subsection shall be in such form as the Director of the Department of Insurance and Finance prescribes.

(2) If the notice required by subsection (1) of this section is not given, the time between the date the first advance payment was made and the date a notice is actually given of the date of expiration of the period of limitation for the commencement of an action for damages set by the applicable statute of limitations is not part of the period limited for commencement of the action by the statute of limitations. [1971 c 331 §5; 1981 c.892 §85b]

**12.160 Suspension as to persons under disability.** If, at the time the cause of action accrues, any person entitled to bring an action mentioned in ORS 12.010 to 12.050 and 12.070 to 12.250 is:

(1) Within the age of 18 years,

(2) Insane, or

(3) Imprisoned on a criminal charge, or in execution under the sentence of a court for a term less than the person's natural life, the time of such disability shall not be a part of the time limited for the commencement of the action; but the period within which the action shall be brought shall not be extended more than five years by any such disability, nor shall it be extended in any case longer than one year after such disability ceases. [Amended by 1973 c.827 §4; 1979 c.246 §1; 1983 c.762 §9]

**12.170 Disability must exist when right of action accrues.** No person shall make use of a disability unless it existed when the right of action of the person accrued.

**12.180 Coexisting disabilities must all be removed.** When two or more disabilities coexist at the time the right of action accrues, the limitation shall not attach until all are removed.

**12.190 Effect of death on limitations.** (1) If a person entitled to bring an action

dies before the expiration of the time limited for its commencement, an action may be commenced by the personal representative of the person after the expiration of that time, and within one year after the death of the person.

(2) If a person against whom an action may be brought dies before the expiration of the time limited for its commencement, an action may be commenced against the personal representative of the person after the expiration of that time, and within one year after the death of the person. [Amended by 1969 c.591 §268]

**12.200 Suspension by war as to alien.** When a person is an alien subject or citizen of a country at war with the United States, the time of the continuance of the war shall not be a part of the period limited for the commencement of the action.

**12.210 Suspension by injunction or prohibition of statute.** When the commencement of an action is stayed by injunction or a statutory prohibition, the time of the continuance of the injunction or prohibition shall not be a part of the time limited for the commencement of the action.

**12.220 Commencement of new action within one year after dismissal or reversal.** Except as otherwise provided in ORS 72.7250, if an action is commenced within the time prescribed therefor and the action is dismissed upon the trial thereof, or upon appeal, after the time limited for bringing a new action, the plaintiff, or if the plaintiff dies and any cause of action in the favor of the plaintiff survives, the heirs or personal representatives of the plaintiff, may commence a new action upon such cause of action within one year after the dismissal or reversal on appeal; however, all defenses that would have been available against the action, if brought within the time limited for the bringing of the action, shall be available against the new action when brought under this section. [Amended by 1961 c.726 §397]

**12.230 Acknowledgment or promise taking contract case out of statute; effect of payment.** No acknowledgment or promise shall be sufficient evidence of a new or continuing contract, whereby to take the case out of the operation of this chapter, unless the same is contained in some writing, signed by the party to be charged thereby; but this section shall not alter the effect of any payment of principal or interest.

**12.240 Effect of payment after obligation becomes due.** Whenever any payment of principal or interest is made after it has become due, upon an existing contract, whether it is a bill of exchange, promissory note, bond, or other evidence of indebtedness,

the limitation shall commence from the time the last payment was made.

**12.250 Actions by state, county, or public corporations.** Unless otherwise made applicable thereto, the limitations prescribed in this chapter shall not apply to actions brought in the name of the state, or any county, or other public corporation therein, or for its benefit.

12.260 [Repealed by 1987 c.536 §9]

**12.270 Conclusive presumption of validity of governmental subdivision boundary proceedings one year after effective date.** On September 13, 1975, any proceeding which establishes or alters the boundaries of a governmental subdivision previously or hereafter initiated and purported to be effected in accordance with applicable legal requirements shall be conclusively presumed valid for all purposes one year after the purported effective date of the action. No direct or collateral attack on the action may thereafter be commenced. This statute of limitations includes but is not limited to the following proceedings:

- (1) Formations and change of organizations under ORS 198.705 to 198.955.
- (2) Boundary changes under ORS 199.410 to 199.519.
- (3) Consolidations under ORS 199.705 to 199.775.
- (4) Incorporations under ORS 221.010 to 221.090.
- (5) Annexations under ORS 222.111 to 222.180, 222.750 and 222.840 to 222.915.
- (6) Consolidations under ORS 222.210 to 222.310.
- (7) Withdrawals and transfers of territory under ORS 222.510 to 222.580.
- (8) Mergers under ORS 222.610 to 222.710.
- (9) Formations and changes under ORS chapter 261.
- (10) Alterations, changes, mergers and consolidations under ORS 330.080 to 330.123, 330.505 to 330.780, 335.490 to 335.505 and ORS chapter 333.
- (11) Formations and boundary changes under ORS 341.025 to 341.125 and 341.565 to 341.575.
- (12) Organizations and boundary changes under ORS 545.002 to 545.014, 545.582 to 545.612, 545.614 and 545.616 to 545.622.
- (13) Formations and boundary alterations under ORS 547.005 to 547.060 and 547.250 to 547.260.
- (14) Formations and organizations under ORS 551.010 to 551.180. [1975 c.326 §2]

**Note:** 12 270 was enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but was not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 12 by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

### UNIFORM CONFLICT OF LAWS-LIMITATIONS ACT

**12.410 Definitions for ORS 12.410 to 12.480.** As used in ORS 12.410 to 12.480:

(1) "Claim" means a right of action that may be asserted in a civil action or proceeding and includes a right of action created by statute.

(2) "State" means a state, commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a foreign country or a political subdivision of any of them. [1987 c.536 §1]

**Note:** 12 410 to 12.480 was enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but was not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 12 or any series therein by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

**12.420 Purpose.** ORS 12.410 to 12.480 shall be applied and construed to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of ORS 12.410 to 12.480 among states enacting it. [1987 c.536 §6]

**Note:** See note under 12.410.

**12.430 Claims based on law of other states; limitations period.** (1) Except as provided by ORS 12.450, if a claim is substantively based:

(a) Upon the law of one other state, the limitation period of that state applies; or

(b) Upon the law of more than one state, the limitation period of one of those states, chosen by the law of conflict of laws of this state, applies.

(2) The limitation period of this state applies to all other claims. [1987 c.536 §2]

**Note:** See note under 12.410.

**12.440 Application of statutes and rules governing conflict of laws.** If the

statute of limitations of another state applies to the assertion of a claim in this state, the other state's relevant statutes and other rules of law governing tolling and accrual apply in computing the limitation period, but its statutes and other rules of law governing conflict of laws do not apply. [1987 c.536 §3]

**Note:** See note under 12.410.

**12.450 When the limitation period of another state not applicable.** If the court determines that the limitation period of another state applicable under ORS 12.430 and 12.440 is substantially different from the limitation period of this state and has not afforded a fair opportunity to sue upon, or imposes an unfair burden in defending against the claim, the limitation period of this state applies. [1987 c.536 §4]

**Note:** See note under 12.410.

**12.460 Claims to which statute applies.** ORS 12.410 to 12.480 applies to claims:

(1) Accruing after January 1, 1988; or

(2) Asserted in a civil action or proceeding more than one year after January 1, 1988, but it does not revive a claim barred before January 1, 1988. [1987 c.536 §5]

**Note:** See note under 12.410.

**12.470 Severability.** If any provision of ORS 12.410 to 12.480 or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of ORS 12.410 to 12.480 which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of ORS 12.410 to 12.480 are severable. [1987 c.536 §8]

**Note:** See note under 12.410.

**12.480 Short title.** ORS 12.410 to 12.480 may be cited as the Uniform Conflict of Laws-Limitations Act. [1987 c.536 §7]

**Note:** See note under 12.410.