

Cyprus Law: Limitation of Actions

Introduction

The limitation periods for actionable claims are regulated in Cyprus by the Limitation of Actionable Rights Law of 2012 (66 (I)/2012), as amended (the “**Law**”), which specifies and sets the rules on the periods of time within which a party can bring a claim depending on the different types of cause of action. In practice, if a claim is brought against or a notice of claim is served, outside the specified timeframe it may procedurally be deemed unenforceable in the event the defendant pleads the defence of limitation.

The table below outlines such limits:

Cause of action related to	Limitation Period (from the date of completion of the basis of the claim)	Notes
General limitation period	10 years	Unless otherwise stipulated by any other legislation.
Mortgages and pledges	12 years	Includes, amongst others, any repossession claims of mortgaged or pledged properties.
Torts	6 years	The courts have discretion to not take into account the relevant limitation period in cases of bodily harm or death caused by a civil wrongdoing.
Negligence, nuisance or breaches of statutory duties	3 years	If the civil wrong relates to bodily harm and the plaintiff only becomes aware of the bodily harm at a later stage then the limitation period commences from the day that the plaintiff becomes aware of the harm caused.
Defamation or cases of malicious falsehood	1 year	
Contractual relationships (generally)	6 years	Unless otherwise stipulated by any other legislation.
Contract or quasi-contract for any remuneration, fee or charge of a professional (e.g. of any advocate, medical practitioner, dentist, architect, civil engineer)	3 years	

Cause of action related to	Limitation Period (from the date of completion of the basis of the claim)	Notes
Loan agreements which are secured by mortgage or pledge	12 years	
Bills of exchange	6 years	Applies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any book debt due to or from a credit institution; bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes and bonds in customary form; and any debt due to or from a credit institution or individual who operates in the financial sector, deriving from banking products other than loans.
Inheritance	8 years	Exception in the event the successor is residing abroad. In this case the limitation period remains open for a period of 1 one year either from the time the successor returned in Cyprus or became aware of the death.
Court judgements	15 years	

Other provisions:

- The court has discretion, on equitable and reasonable grounds, to extend the period of limitation for up to 2 years.
- The defence of limitation of action can be brought in court by any party.
- The Law includes specific provisions for the suspension or disruption of limitation periods.
- In cases where the right of action (i) is concealed by the fraud of the defendant or (ii) is for relief from the consequences of a mistake, then the period of limitation shall not begin to run until the claimant has discovered the fraud or mistake, or could, with reasonable diligence, have discovered it.

Key Contacts

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