

# Limitation of Actions in Cyprus.

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In Cyprus, every legal claim is subject to a strict limitation period, a deadline by which the claimant must file their case in court. If this deadline expires, the courts will normally refuse to hear the matter, even if the underlying claim is strong. Understanding these time limits is essential for anyone wishing to protect their legal rights.

For most civil disputes, the general limitation period is 10 years from the date the claim arises. After that time, legal action is usually barred.

Claims involving mortgages or pledges benefit from a longer period of 12 years. This covers the enforcement of mortgage debts and similar secured obligations.

For civil wrongs, the limitation period is generally 6 years. However, in cases of negligence, nuisance, or breach of duty, the period is 3 years. Claims involving personal injury or death may be extended by the court if the claimant applies within two years after the original period expires. Defamation and malicious falsehood carry a short limit of 1 year.

Most contractual claims must be filed within 6 years. However, claims involving professional fees (lawyers, doctors, architects, civil engineers and similar professions) must be brought within 3 years.

For financial documents such as cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange and banking instruments, the limitation period is 6 years. Probate and inheritance claims must generally be brought within 8 years of death.

The law allows for suspension of the limitation period in specific situations, such as force majeure or where the defendant prevents the claimant from issuing proceedings. Limitation also does not run between spouses, parents and minors, or trustees and minor beneficiaries.

Cyprus courts treat limitation as a matter of public policy. Judges apply limitation rules strictly, and if a claim is filed late, even by a day, the court will normally strike it out. The burden lies on the claimant to prove that the claim was filed in time, or that a lawful basis for suspension or extension applies. Courts rarely allow exceptions unless the legislation expressly permits it.

*The content of this article is valid as at the date of its first publication. It is intended to provide a general guide to the subject matter and does not constitute legal advice. We recommend that you seek professional advice on your specific matter before acting on any information provided. For further information or advice, please contact Savvas Savvides, Senior Partner, Paphos Office of Michael Kyprianou law firm at Tel +357 26930800 or email [savvas.savvides@kyprianou.com](mailto:savvas.savvides@kyprianou.com)*