

Maine Statutes of Limitation 2019

CLAIM ¹	TIME ALLOWED	ACTION REQUIRED ²
Assault and Battery	2 years ³	14 M.R.S. § 753
Attorney Malpractice		
• General	6 years from act of negligence ³	14 M.R.S. §§ 752; 753-B(1)
Title opinions	6 years from discovery, but no more than 20 years from act or ommission ³	14 M.R.S. § 753-B(2)
 Drafting of wills 	6 years from discovery ³	14 M.R.S. § 753-B(3)
Contract ⁴	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
General	6 years	14 M.R.S. § 752
• UCC – sale of goods	4 years	11 M.R.S. § 2-725(1)
5	6 years – physical injury	11 M.R.S. § 2-725(2)
Defamation	2 years ³	14 M.R.S. § 753
Discrimination	300 days from act of discrimination	Filing of complaint with
(Maine Human Rights Act)		M.H.R.C. – 5 M.R.S. § 4611
	2 years from act of discrimination or 90 days (whichever is later) from: (1) dismissal of the case under section 4612(2); (2) failure, within 90 days after finding reasonable grounds to believe that unlawful discrimination occurred, to enter into a conciliation agreement to which the plaintiff was a party; (3) issuance of a right-to-sue letter under section 4612(6); or (4) erroneous dismissal of case	5 M.R.S. § 4613(2)(C) 5 M.R.S. § 4622(1)(A)-(D)
False Imprisonment	2 years ³	14 M.R.S. § 753
Federal Civil Rights	6 years	14 M.R.S. § 752
(42 U.S.C. § 1983)		(most analogous state statute of limitations) (state law tolling rules apply)
Federal Tort Claims Act	2 years. 5 Written denial by agency or failure of agency to act within	Notice of Claim to federal
(FTCA)	6 months of filing is a prerequisite to commencement of action (subject to equitable tolling)	agency – 28 U.S.C. § 240(b)
	6 months following mailing of written denial of claim by agency, but no later than 6 years from accrual (failure of agency to make disposition of claim within 6 months may, at option of claimant at any time thereafter, be deemed a denial) (person under legal disability or "beyond the seas" when action accrues may bring action within 3 years after disability ceases) (subject to equitable tolling)	28 U.S.C. § 2401(a), (b); § 2675(a
Fire Loss (Property) – Action Under Standard Policy	2 years	24-A M.R.S. § 3002
Liquor Liability	180 days Notice of Claim unless "good cause"	Notice to "Server" 28-A M.R.S. § 2513
	2 years	28-A M.R.S. § 2514
Maine Tort Claims Act	180 days Notice of Claim unless "good cause"	Notice of Claim to
(MTCA)	(tolled during minority)	governmental entity 14 M.R.S. § 8107(1); (2)
	2 years (tolled during minority)	14 M.R.S. § 8110
Medical Malpractice	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	- -
• General	3 years from act of negligence causing injury (In the case of continuing acts of negligence causing the injury, 3 years from the last such act. See <i>Baker v. Farrand</i> , 2011 ME 91, 26 A.3d 806)	Notice of Claim 24 M.R.S. § 2902
Foreign objects	3 years from discovery	Notice of Claim 24 M.R.S. § 2902
• Minors	Earlier of 3 years from majority or 6 years from accrual	Notice of Claim 24 M.R.S. § 2902

(continued)



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CLAIM ¹	TIME ALLOWED	ACTION REQUIRED ²
Medical Malpractice		(continued)
 Tolling pending 	Statute of limitations tolled from service or filing of Notice of Claim	24 M.R.S. § 2859
Panel process	until 30 days after notice of Panel findings	
• Governmental entities /	1. State governmental entities/employees (e.g., hospital administrative	Notice of Claim
employees	districts). See MTCA requirements	24 M.R.S. § 2902 in addition to
	Federal governmental entities/employees (e.g., VA Hospital, Togus). See FTCA requirements	MTCA Notice
	3. Certain federally supported entities/employees (e.g., Community Health Centers, http://bphc.hrsa.gov). See FTCA requirements	
Mental Health Professional Malpractice Based on	6 years, Section REPEALED, July 1, 2017	24 M.R.S. § 2902-B
Sexual Acts		
(except minors)		
Nursing Home Liability	See Medical Malpractice requirements	
Personal Injury*	6 years ³	14 M.R.S. § 752
(except where otherwise		
provided)	*Special limitation for proceedings to appoint P.R. of deceased defendant's estate:	18-A M.R.S. § 3-108(a)(4)
	 Recovery of assets of estate – 3 years from date of death; 	
	2. Recovery of liability insurance only – up to 6 years ⁶ from accrual	
Product Liability	6 years from date of accrual (See, e.g., Bernier v. Raymark Industries, Inc.,	
(Negligence or Strict	516 A.2d 534 (Me. 1986))	
Liability)		
Sex Acts Against Minors	No limitations ⁷	14 M.R.S. § 752-C(1)
Ski Areas	2 years ³	14 M.R.S. § 752-B
Uninsured Motorist Claims	6 years from denial of claim ⁴	14 M.R.S. § 752
Wrongful Death	2 years from date of death	18-A M.R.S. § 2-804
(except for medical		
malpractice. Bulter v.		
Killoran, 1998 ME 147,		
714 A.2d 129)		

¹ Civil actions – SOL generally 6 years (tolled until majority) except where otherwise provided (14 M.R.S. § 752).

Tolling Provisions (other than as noted)

CLAIM	TIME ALLOWED	
Absence of Defendant from the State	Certain state law limitations tolled during residence outside of Maine	14 M.R.S. § 866
Absence of Plaintiff from U.S. when cause of action accrues	Certain state law limitations tolled until return to U.S.	14 M.R.S. § 853
Fraud and Fraudulent Concealment	6 years after discovery (state law claims)	14 M.R.S. § 859
Imprisonment or Mental Illness of Plaintiff when cause of action accrues	Limitations tolled until disability removed (state law claims)	14 M.R.S. § 853
Minority of Plaintiff when cause of action accrues	Certain state law limitations tolled until majority	14 M.R.S. § 853

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² Filing in court except as otherwise indicated.

Limitations tolled until majority – 14 M.R.S. § 853 (see below).

⁴ Unless otherwise provided in policy.

⁵ State law statutes of repose may be substantive defenses to federal tort claims. See *Wood v. United States*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13689 (D. Me.) (medical malpractice claim barred against United States by 24 M.R.S. § 2902 notwithstanding federal discovery rule).

⁶ Where no "actual notice" of death.

⁷ Annlies to

^{1.} All actions based on a sexual act or sexual contact occurring on or after the effective date of this Act (August 11, 2000); and

^{2.} All actions for which the claim has not yet been barred by the previous statute of limitations in force on the effective date of this Act.