



# Limitation Act 1980

## 1980 CHAPTER 58

### PART I

#### ORDINARY TIME LIMITS FOR DIFFERENT CLASSES OF ACTION

##### *Actions in respect of trust property or the personal estate of deceased persons*

#### **21 Time limit for actions in respect of trust property.**

- (1) No period of limitation prescribed by this Act shall apply to an action by a beneficiary under a trust, being an action—
- (a) in respect of any fraud or fraudulent breach of trust to which the trustee was a party or privy; or
  - (b) to recover from the trustee trust property or the proceeds of trust property in the possession of the trustee, or previously received by the trustee and converted to his use.

- (2) Where a trustee who is also a beneficiary under the trust receives or retains trust property or its proceeds as his share on a distribution of trust property under the trust, his liability in any action brought by virtue of subsection (1)(b) above to recover that property or its proceeds after the expiration of the period of limitation prescribed by this Act for bringing an action to recover trust property shall be limited to the excess over his proper share.

This subsection only applies if the trustee acted honestly and reasonably in making the distribution

- (3) Subject to the preceding provisions of this section, an action by a beneficiary to recover trust property or in respect of any breach of trust, not being an action for which a period of limitation is prescribed by any other provision of this Act, shall not be brought after the expiration of six years from the date on which the right of action accrued.

For the purposes of this subsection, the right of action shall not be treated as having accrued to any beneficiary entitled to a future interest in the trust property until the interest fell into possession.

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**Changes to legislation:** *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Limitation Act 1980, Cross Heading: Actions in respect of trust property or the personal estate of deceased persons. (See end of Document for details)*

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- (4) No beneficiary as against whom there would be a good defence under this Act shall derive any greater or other benefit from a judgment or order obtained by any other beneficiary than he could have obtained if he had brought the action and this Act had been pleaded in defence.

**22 Time limit for actions claiming personal estate of a deceased person.**

Subject to section 21(1) and (2) of this Act—

- (a) no action in respect of any claim to the personal estate of a deceased person or to any share or interest in any such estate (whether under a will or on intestacy) shall be brought after the expiration of twelve years from the date on which the right to receive the share or interest accrued; and
- (b) no action to recover arrears of interest in respect of any legacy, or damages in respect of such arrears, shall be brought after the expiration of six years from the date on which the interest became due.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Limitation Act 1980, Cross Heading:  
Actions in respect of trust property or the personal estate of deceased persons.