



Limitation Act 1980

1980 CHAPTER 58

PART I

ORDINARY TIME LIMITS FOR DIFFERENT CLASSES OF ACTION

Actions founded on tort

4 Special time limit in case of theft.

(1) The right of any person from whom a chattel is stolen to bring an action in respect of the theft shall not be subject to the time limits under sections 2 and 3(1) of this Act, but if his title to the chattel is extinguished under section 3(2) of this Act he may not bring an action in respect of a theft preceding the loss of his title, unless the theft in question preceded the conversion from which time began to run for the purposes of section 3(2).

(2) Subsection (1) above shall apply to any conversion related to the theft of a chattel as it applies to the theft of a chattel; and, except as provided below, every conversion following the theft of a chattel before the person from whom it is stolen recovers possession of it shall be regarded for the purposes of this section as related to the theft.

If anyone purchases the stolen chattel in good faith neither the purchase nor any conversion following it shall be regarded as related to the theft.

(3) Any cause of action accruing in respect of the theft or any conversion related to the theft of a chattel to any person from whom the chattel is stolen shall be disregarded for the purpose of applying section 3(1) or (2) of this Act to his case.

(4) Where in any action brought in respect of the conversion of a chattel it is proved that the chattel was stolen from the plaintiff or anyone through whom he claims it shall be presumed that any conversion following the theft is related to the theft unless the contrary is shown.

(5) In this section “theft” includes—

- (a) any conduct outside England and Wales which would be theft if committed in England and Wales; and

Status: Point in time view as at 13/10/2003. This version of this provision has been superseded.

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects
for the Limitation Act 1980, Section 4. (See end of Document for details)*

- (b) obtaining any chattel (in England and Wales or elsewhere) in the circumstances described in section 15(1) of the ^{M1}Theft Act 1968 (obtaining by deception) or by blackmail within the meaning of section 21 of that Act; and references in this section to a chattel being “stolen” shall be construed accordingly.

Marginal Citations

M1 1968 c. 60(39:6)

Status:

Point in time view as at 13/10/2003. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Limitation Act 1980, Section 4.