

MESSA LAW

INJURY LAWYERS

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MESSA & ASSOCIATES IS NOW MESSA LAW

We are excited to announce that effective Monday, April 27, 2026, Messa & Associates P.C. will be known as Messa Law! Our team, leadership, and commitment to justice stay the same. Founded in 2001, the firm has evolved in the last 25 years. What started with two lawyers and three staff members has grown to 19 attorneys and more than 35 staff members.



Much has changed over the years, but the firm's grit, determination, and commitment to our clients remain constant. While we update our online presence, you might see our former branding in some places, but rest assured, it's still us - same team, same great service.

"When I think about the next 25 years and the future of this firm, I want to position the firm for the upcoming leaders – the lawyers who will build on the hard work, integrity, compassion, and courage to do the right thing, while also leaving a legacy of all that came before. I'm proud of the work we've done and the impact it's had on the lives of those who have been injured and harmed by negligence, bad medicine, and corporate wrongdoing. It's important as a testament to the last 25 years that we continue our mission, while evolving to meet new challenges and the needs of our clients. We've worked hard to build this over the years and believe in its future," said Founding Partner Joseph L. Messa Jr.



Understanding Statute of Limitations in Pennsylvania

By: Brett M. Furber, Esq.

In Pennsylvania, the statute of limitations for most personal injury claims is two years from the date the injury occurred. This deadline applies to negligence actions arising from motor vehicle accidents, premises liability incidents, product liability claims, medical malpractice, and wrongful death actions. The statute of limitations serves an important public policy function by ensuring that claims are brought while evidence remains available, witnesses' memories are fresh, and parties are able to fairly investigate the facts surrounding an incident.

Failure to file a lawsuit within the applicable limitations period generally results in the claim being forever barred, regardless of the severity of the injuries or the merits of the case. For that reason, determining when the limitations period begins to run is often one of the most critical issues in a Pennsylvania personal injury action.

Although the general rule is straightforward, Pennsylvania law recognizes several important exceptions and tolling doctrines. This doctrine commonly arises in medical malpractice and toxic exposure.

One such doctrine is the “discovery rule,” which may delay the commencement of the statute of limitations where the injured party, despite exercising reasonable diligence, could not have known that he or she was injured or that the injury was caused by another’s conduct. cases where the harm may not become immediately apparent.

Pennsylvania law also contains special provisions for minors. When the injured party is under the age of eighteen, the statute of limitations is typically tolled until the minor reaches adulthood. In those cases, the individual generally has until his or her twentieth birthday to commence a personal injury action. Separate statutes govern claims involving wrongful death and survival actions, though those claims also generally carry a two-year filing period.

Ultimately, the statute of limitations is more than a procedural technicality—it is frequently outcome-determinative. This means that potential plaintiffs should consult an attorney as soon as possible, even if they are not sure that a case exists. Once the statute of limitations has passed, you forever lose your claims.



About the Author:

Brett M. Furber concentrates his practice on catastrophic injury cases, including medical malpractice, products liability, and work-related injuries, with a special focus on crime victim cases. Prior to joining Messa Law, Mr. Furber served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, where he quickly distinguished himself as a trial lawyer. Within six years, he was promoted to the Homicide Unit—an achievement attained by only a select few prosecutors. Mr. Furber is licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Settlements and Verdicts

- \$3.25 Million Recovery for a young girl who lost part of her pinky on a defective slide.
- \$3 Million Recovery in a nursing facility case for the abuse and neglect of a bed-bound woman.

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