

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2026 SESSION

## CHAPTER 251

*An Act to amend and reenact § 8.01-249 of the Code of Virginia, relating to sexual abuse during infancy or incapacity; accrual of cause of action.*

[H 1020]

Approved April 6, 2026

### **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

#### **1. That § 8.01-249 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

##### **§ 8.01-249. When cause of action shall be deemed to accrue in certain personal actions.**

The cause of action in the actions herein listed shall be deemed to accrue as follows:

1. In actions for fraud or mistake, in actions for violations of the Consumer Protection Act (§ 59.1-196 et seq.) based upon any misrepresentation, deception, or fraud, and in actions for rescission of contract for undue influence, when such fraud, mistake, misrepresentation, deception, or undue influence is discovered or by the exercise of due diligence reasonably should have been discovered;

2. In actions or other proceedings for money on deposit with a bank or any person or corporation doing a banking business, when a request in writing be made therefor by check, order, or otherwise;

3. In actions for malicious prosecution or abuse of process, when the relevant criminal or civil action is terminated;

4. In actions for injury to the person resulting from exposure to asbestos or products containing asbestos, when a diagnosis of asbestosis, interstitial fibrosis, mesothelioma, or other disabling asbestos-related injury or disease is first communicated to the person or his agent by a physician. However, no such action may be brought more than two years after the death of such person. The diagnosis of a nonmalignant asbestos-related injury or disease shall not accrue an action based upon the subsequent diagnosis of a malignant asbestos-related injury or disease, and such subsequent diagnosis shall constitute a separate injury that shall accrue an action when such diagnosis is first communicated to the person or his agent by a physician;

4a. In actions for injury to the person resulting from the exposure to a substance or a combination of substances or the use of a product, when such injury is latent, other than (i) those asbestos-related injuries specified in subdivision 4 and (ii) claims against health care providers as defined in § 8.01-581.1, when the person knew or should have known of the injury and its causal connection to an injury-causing substance or product. However, no such action may be brought more than two years after the death of such person. For purposes of this subdivision, "latent" refers to injuries that remain dormant or do not develop and, therefore, are undiagnosable during the period of limitations set forth in subsection A of § 8.01-243;

5. In actions for contribution or for indemnification, when the contributtee or the indemnitee has paid or discharged the obligation. A third-party claim permitted by subsection A of § 8.01-281 and the Rules of Court may be asserted before such cause of action is deemed to accrue hereunder;

6. In actions for injury to the person, whatever the theory of recovery, resulting from sexual abuse occurring during the infancy or incapacity of the person, upon the later of (i) the removal of the disability of infancy or incapacity as provided in § 8.01-229 ~~or~~; (ii) when the fact of the injury and its causal connection to the sexual abuse is first communicated to the person by a licensed physician, psychologist, or clinical psychologist; or (iii) when corroborative evidence is discovered or by the exercise of due diligence reasonably should have been discovered. As used in this subdivision, "corroborative evidence" means independent evidence to support some essential allegation or issue of such injury, including (a) physical evidence, including biological samples, as defined in § 59.1-593, scientifically reliable test results, or records or other forms of data compilation however stored and regardless of physical form or characteristics, including business records, recordings, or photographs; (b) witness statements regarding an essential allegation or issue or alleging that the individual or entity against whom such action may be brought committed another act of the same or similar character; or (c) a confession or admission of the individual or entity against whom such action may be brought, and "sexual abuse" means sexual abuse as defined in subdivision 6 of § 18.2-67.10 and acts constituting rape, sodomy, object sexual penetration or sexual battery as defined in Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2. Any action brought against an entity under clause (iii) shall only be for a cause of action occurring on or after July 1, 2026;

7. In products liability actions against parties other than health care providers as defined in § 8.01-581.1 for injury to the person resulting from or arising as a result of the implantation of any prosthetic device for breast augmentation or reconstruction, when the fact of the injury and its causal connection to the implantation is first communicated to the person by a physician;

8. In actions on an open account, from the later of the last payment or last charge for goods or services rendered on the account;

9. In products liability actions against parties other than health care providers as defined in § 8.01-581.1

for injury to the person resulting from or arising as a result of the implantation of any medical device, when the person knew or should have known of the injury and its causal connection to the device.