

Finding a Statute When You Don't have a Citation

Note: Westlaw legal research service is illustrated below.

Using a natural language search of “statutes of limitations for contracts” narrowed to New York State produces a large result of 548 New York code sections, which is imprecise. We will try using the West Statute Index instead.

The screenshot displays the Westlaw search results for the query "statutes of limitations for contracts" in New York State. The interface includes a search bar at the top with the query and a dropdown menu for "NY (State & Fed.)". Below the search bar, there is a list of results with checkboxes for selection. The results are as follows:

- Select all items | No items selected
- 1. **§ 213. Actions to be commenced within six years: where not otherwise provided for; on contract; on sealed instrument; on bond or note, and mortgage upon real property; by state based on misappropriation of public property; based on mistake; by corporation against director, officer or stockholder; based on fraud**
NY CPLR § 213
- 2. **§ 214. Actions to be commenced within three years: for non-payment of money collected on execution; for penalty created by statute; to recover chattel; for injury to property; for personal injury; for malpractice other than medical, dental or podiatric malpractice; to annul a marriage on the ground of fraud**
NY CPLR § 214
- 3. **§ 17-103. Agreements waiving the statute of limitation**
NY GEN OBLIG § 17-103
- 4. **§ 201. Application of article**
NY CPLR § 201
- 5. **§ 203. Method of computing periods of limitation generally**
NY CPLR § 203
- 6. **§ 17-101. Acknowledgment or new promise must be in writing**
NY GEN OBLIG § 17-101
- 7. **§ 202. Cause of action accruing without the state**
NY CPLR § 202
- 8. **§ 215. Actions to be commenced within one year: against sheriff, coroner or constable; for escape of prisoner; for assault, battery, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, libel or slander; for violation of right of privacy; for penalty given to informer; on arbitration award**
NY CPLR § 215
- 9. **§ 2-725. Statute of Limitations in Contracts for Sale**
NY UCC § 2-725
- 10. **§ 206. Computing periods of limitation in particular actions**
NY CPLR § 206

On the left side, there is a sidebar with filters and a "NARROW:" section. The "Jurisdiction" section shows "Federal" (1,023) and "New York" (548) with "New York" selected. The "Date" section shows "All" selected. The "Statute Title" section shows "Select".

On the right side, there is a "Secondary Sources" section with the following content:

- § 2517. General statutes of limitations**
New York Jurisprudence, Second Edition
...Absent a valid **contractual** limitation or a special **statute of limitations**, [1] the general six-year **statute of limitations** relating to **contractual** obligations or liabilities [2] applies to an action on a life insurance policy [3] and the same is true with regard to actions on other insurance coverage clauses or provisions that are not within the scope of special **statutes of limitations** [...]
- § 72:23. Defenses to breach of contract actions—Statute of limitations**
New York Practice Series - Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts
...Chapter 72. **Contracts** ...
- § 13:161. Limitations applicable to actions on sales contracts and warranties, generally**
Carmody-Wait 2d New York Practice with Forms
...The Uniform Commercial Code provides a four-year **statute of limitations** applicable to actions for breach of sales **contracts**, [1] which is expressly excepted from the more generally applicable six-year general **statute of limitations** for **contract** actions [...]

Go to: Home > Statutes & Court Rules > New York > under Tools & Resources on the right-hand Navigation Bar > New York Statutes Index

THOMSON REUTERS
WESTLAW New York Statutes &... Search New York Statutes & Court Rules Advanced

Home > Statutes & Court Rules
New York Statutes & Court Rules
Includes current version of New York statutes, constitution & court rules. Browse Table of Contents below or search above. ⓘ

Effective Date: 03/24/2017 Go Search all content Specify content to search

Effective date versioning not available for certain content such as court rules and Federal Sentencing Guidelines

Statutes

- Constitution of the State of New York
- Abandoned Property Law
- Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Law
- Agriculture and Markets Law
- Alcoholic Beverage Control Law
- Alternative County Government Law
- Arts and Cultural Affairs Law
- Banking Law
- Benevolent Orders Law
- Business Corporation Law
- Canal Law
- Civil Practice Law and Rules
- Civil Rights Law
- Civil Service Law
- Cooperative Corporations Law
- Correction Law
- County Law
- Criminal Procedure Law
- Debtor and Creditor Law
- Domestic Relations Law

TOOLS & RESOURCES

- McKinney's New York Rules of Court
- New York Statutes Find Template
- New York Statutes Annotated - Historical
- New York Statutes Index**
- New York Statutes Popular Name Table
- New York City Municipal Materials
- New York Rules Update Orders
- New York Enacted Legislation (Session Laws)
- New York Proposed Legislation (Bills)
- New York Historical Proposed Legislation (Bills)
- New York Statutes - Unannotated
- New York Bill Tracking
- New York Federal Court Rules
- New York Legislative History
- New York Bill Jackets

Title Search

Search headings

Search

This leads you to the statute index. At this point, you can browse for a topic or search for something more specific.

THOMSON REUTERS
WESTLAW New York Statutes Ind... Search New York Statutes Index

Home > Statutes & Court Rules > New York Statutes & Court Rules
New York Statutes Index ★ Add to Favorites
Browse index below or search above. ⓘ

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A Mensa et Thoro
Separation and Separation Actions

A Vinculo

In this example, we will browse for statute of limitations:

THOMSON REUTERS
WESTLAW ▾ New York Statutes Ind... ▾ Search New York Statutes Index

Home > Statutes & Court Rules > New York Statutes & Court Rules > New York Statutes Index

Statute of Limitations

★ Add to Favorites

Browse index below or search above. ⓘ

- Limitation of Actions
- Limitation of Prosecutions

Once in this topic, you can browse further for specific topics statute of limitations apply to. This leads to finding an entry for contracts (Limitations of Actions > A- Federal > Contracts):

THOMSON REUTERS
WESTLAW ▾ New York Statutes Ind... ▾ Search New York Statutes Index

Home > Statutes & Court Rules > New York Statutes & Court Rules > New York Statutes Index > Limitation of Actions > A - Federal

Contracts

★ Add to Favorites

Browse index below or search above. ⓘ

- Contracts: NY Cplr § 213
- Acknowledgment or New Promise in Writing, Evidence, Taking Action Out of Operation of: NY Gen Oblig § 17-101
- Actions Arising Out of, Written Agreements Waiving, Extending, or Not to Plead: NY Gen Oblig § 17-103
- Recovery of Money Due and Payable Under or on Account of, Abbreviation of Period After Notice: NY Cplr § 216

Clicking on CPLR Section 213 leads you to some base information on statute of limitations for contracts:

The screenshot shows the Westlaw interface for § 213. The header includes the Thomson Reuters Westlaw logo, a search bar with the text "All Content" and "Enter terms, citations, databases, anything ...", and a "New York" dropdown menu. Below the header, the statute title is displayed: "§ 213. Actions to be commenced within six years: where not otherwise provided for; on contract; on sealed ins...". The source is identified as "McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York Annotated | Civil Practice Law and Rules | Effective: August 17, 2004 (Approx. 2 pages)". A navigation bar includes "Document", "Notes of Decisions (1,909)", "History (36)", "Citing References (15,161)", and "Context & Analysis (637)", along with a "Go To" button and a "Table of Contents" button. A breadcrumb trail shows the path: "McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York Annotated" > "Civil Practice Law and Rules (Refs & Annos)" > "Chapter Eight. Of the Consolidated Laws" > "Article 2. Limitations of Time (Refs & Annos)". A "Proposed Legislation" icon is also visible.

Effective: August 17, 2004

McKinney's CPLR § 213

§ 213. Actions to be commenced within six years: where not otherwise provided for; on contract; on sealed instrument; on bond or note, and mortgage upon real property; by state based on misappropriation of public property; based on mistake; by corporation against director, officer or stockholder; based on fraud

[Currentness](#)

The following actions must be commenced within six years:

1. an action for which no limitation is specifically prescribed by law;
2. an action upon a contractual obligation or liability, express or implied, except as provided in [section two hundred thirteen-a](#) of this article or article 2 of the uniform commercial code or article 36-B of the general business law;
3. an action upon a sealed instrument;