



# MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Revision Date: 12/13/2024

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS RE: INTEREST ON JUDGMENTS UNDER MINN. STAT. § 549.09

### **Interest calculated on 365-day year (not 360-day year)**

**Source:** Conference of Chief Judges Administrative Policy # 12, effective August 1, 1987

### **Interest calculated as "simple interest per annum"- no compounding.**

**Exception:** Preverdict interest (where allowed by court) is properly included in the principal amount of the judgment.

**Source:** Minnesota Court System Forms & Procedures Manual, Approved by Conference of Chief Judges 10/19/90.

### **Preverdict interest calculated at same rate as judgment interest, unless otherwise provided by contract or allowed by law.**

**Source:** Minn. Stat. § 549.09, subd. 1(b). See, e.g., *Blehr v. Anderson*, 955 N.W. 2d 613 (Minn. App. 2021) (When damages not readily ascertainable, preverdict interest is calculated under Minn. Stat. § 549.09. (citing to *Hogenson v. Hogenson*, 852 N.W. 2d at 274); Damages are not ascertainable if they depend on “contingencies or jury discretion.”; *Id.*; Verdict interest on additur damages is appropriate because additur increases the verdict; *Id.*; *Liberty Mutual Insurance Company v. Sankey*, 605 N.W.2d 411 (Minn. App. 2000) (interest from arbitration award to entry of judgment properly awarded under Minn. Stat. § 65B.54; postjudgment interest properly awarded under Minn. Stat. § 549.09); *C.J. Duffey Paper Company v. Reger*, 588 N.W.2d 519, 527 (Minn. App. 1999) (once judgment entered, postjudgment interest under Minn. Stat. § 549.09 applies, not statutory rate on general indebtedness or rate provided by contract itself), review denied (Minn. April 28, 1999); *Motschenbacher v. New Hampshire Ins. Group*, 402 N.W.2d 119, 125 (Minn. App. 1987) (limiting award of postjudgment interest on no fault claim to that provided by Minn. Stat. §549.09 and reversing trial court’s award of interest under Minn. Stat. § 65B.54 following entry of judgment) review denied (Minn. April 29, 1987); *Wesser v. State Farm Fire and Casualty Company*, 989 N.W.2d 294 (Minn. 2023).

**Note:** Preverdict or prejudgment interest may not be available in all cases. Please see Minn. Stat. § 549.09, subd. 1(b), and Rule 68.04(b) of the Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure and accompanying advisory committee comment (2008 amendment, last paragraph), and consult an attorney for advice.

### **Multiple rates may be applicable to a judgment.**

Judgments greater than \$50,000 finally entered on or after 8/1/2009, except judgments entered for or against the state or a political subdivision entered on or after 4/16/2010, and judgments entered in family court actions

on or after 8/1/2015, will have a single rate attach to them (consult rate chart for rate). For other judgments, interest accrues during any calendar year at the rate for that year for judgments.

**Note:** If for example a judgment is entered January 1, 1991, and is not paid until January 1993, interest accrues in 1991 at 7% and 1992 at 5%.

**Source:** Minn. Stat. § 549.09, subds. 1, 2

**Child Support Judgments no longer accrue interest effective August 1, 2022.**

The interest rate applicable to child support judgments shall not accrue on a past, current, or future judgments for child support, confinement and pregnancy expenses, or genetic testing fees.

**Note:** If a child support judgment is entered January 1, 2020, and paid August 30, 2022, interest accrues from January 1, 2020 through July 31, 2022, but no interest accrues (i.e. is waived) from August 1, 2022 to August 30, 2022. If a child support judgment is entered on or after August 1, 2022, no interest accrues.

**Source:** 2021 Minn. Laws. Chap. 30, Art. 10, Sec. 73 and 78, amending Minn. Stat. § 548.091, subd. 1a and creating § 549.09, subd. 1(c)(1)(i).

**New rates shall be announced third week of December.**

**Source:** Minn. Stat. § 549.09, subd. 1(c)(1)(i)

**Special interest rates applicable to certain situations.**

Consult Rate Chart, including footnotes, for details.