

Increased Liability Limits for Public Bodies

By Aja Holland

Oregon Tort Claims Act Liability Limits

Oregon's Office of the State Court Administrator (OSCA) has increased the limits of liability for state and local public bodies in cases involving personal injury or death and property damage or destruction.

OSCA adjusts the limits annually, as required by statute. The new amounts took effect on July 1; they apply to all causes of action arising on or after July 1, 2023, and before July 1, 2024.

Based on OSCA's calculations, the new limits are:

- \$2,490,600 for injury or death claims against a state body that involve a single claimant (previously \$2,418,100);
- \$4,981,300 for injury or death claims against a state body that involve multiple claimants (previously \$4,836,200);
- \$830,300 for injury or death claims against a local body that involve a single claimant (previously \$806,100);
- \$1,660,400 for injury or death claims against a local body that involve multiple claimants (previously \$1,612,000);
- \$136,200 for property damage or destruction claims against a state or local body that involve a single claimant (previously \$132,200);
- \$680,900 for property damage or destruction claims against a state or local body that involve multiple claimants (previously \$661,000).

Wrongful Conviction Compensation

In 2022, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill (SB) 1584. The measure allows a wrongfully convicted person to file a petition seeking compensation in the Marion County Circuit Court or in the circuit court for the county of conviction. OSCA adjusts the limits annually, as required by statute.

OSCA has increased the following wrongful conviction compensation amounts for petitions filed on or after July 1, 2023, and before July 1, 2024:

- \$67,000 for each year of imprisonment (previously \$65,000);
- \$25,800 for each additional year served on parole or post-prison supervision or was required to register as a sex offender, whichever is greater (previously \$25,000).

A list of past and current limitations on liability of public bodies and a current list of wrongful conviction compensation amounts can be found on the Oregon Judicial Department website at <http://courts.oregon.gov/Pages/tort.aspx>. ■

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