

582.3 Duration and enforcement of lien.

1. Any person, firm, or corporation, including an insurance carrier, making any payment to such patient or to the patient's attorneys or heirs or legal representatives as compensation for the injury sustained, after the filing and mailing of such notice without paying to such hospital the amount of its lien recoverable pursuant to section 582.1A from such person, firm, or corporation or so much thereof as can be satisfied out of the moneys due under any final judgment or compromise or settlement agreement, after paying the amount of any prior liens, shall, for a period of one year from the date of payment to such patient or the patient's heirs, attorneys, or legal representatives, as aforesaid, be and remain liable to such hospital for the amount which such hospital was entitled to receive as aforesaid; any such association, corporation, or other institution maintaining such hospital may, within such period, enforce its lien by a suit at law against such person, firm, or corporation making any such payment.

2. Prior to payment by a person, firm, or corporation, including an insurance carrier, to a patient's attorney, the patient's attorney may notify the person, firm, or corporation that will be making the payment that the attorney agrees to assume responsibility for the satisfaction of some or all liens of which the person, firm, or attorney has received notice pursuant to section 582.2. Upon receipt of such notification by the patient's attorney, such person, firm, or corporation shall provide the patient's attorney with copies of any lien notice relating to a hospital lien for which the attorney has agreed to assume responsibility and such person, firm, or corporation shall not thereafter be responsible to any hospital encompassed by such notification. A patient's attorney who so notifies a person, firm, or corporation and who receives a copy of any lien notice encompassed by such notification from the person, firm, or corporation shall pay such hospital the amount to which the hospital is entitled pursuant to section 582.1A from the amount received from the person, firm, or corporation. If there is a dispute concerning the amount owed to a hospital pursuant to section 582.1A, a patient's attorney shall hold in trust the maximum amount to which the hospital may be entitled pursuant to section 582.1A and may disburse any other amounts to the patient, attorney, or other persons entitled to the funds. Any dispute concerning the amount owed to a hospital pursuant to section 582.1A shall be resolved by the court in which the patient filed an action to recover for the patient's injury and the court shall retain jurisdiction of the case to resolve the amount of the lien after dismissal of the action. If no such action was commenced by the patient, a court in which such action could have been brought shall have jurisdiction to determine the amount owed to the hospital.

[C35, §10347-f7; C39, §10347.16; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §582.3]
2007 Acts, ch 154, §4