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Nelson, a Michigan native and graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, is a healthcare attorney and author of *The United States of Opioids: A Prescription for Liberating a Nation in Pain*.⁷ In his book, he outlines the origins of the opioid problem and the complex responses we need to mount to deal with it.

For each person struggling with a chronic pain condition and a prescription for opioid pain medication, a careful response must be crafted. The price that people struggling with chronic pain may pay for relief can be extremely high. We must realize the dangers of opioids. Treatments and interventions can help sufferers of chronic pain without relying on opioids. Still, some people will need to use prescribed medications even while using nonmedical methods of dealing with pain. Unless they are in acute pain, some people should avoid opioid medications entirely due to a strong family history or personal history of addiction.

Another related danger

With the increase in painkiller prescriptions in the United States, the medicine cabinets in many homes may contain a bottle or two of painkillers. Children and adolescents may find the medications, experiment with them, and quickly become dependent on the drugs. When the painkillers are removed from the home, adolescents sometimes turn to another opioid—heroin, which can be obtained on the street. On the heels of the increase in prescription opioid painkillers, there has been a similar rise in heroin addiction in this country.⁸

The dangers of opioids go far beyond the issues discussed in this article. We would be wise to become familiar with this crisis and find ways to respond on personal, professional, and societal levels. Take the time to listen to Nelson's podcast and read his

book. Think seriously about any pain medication you use and discuss it with a trusted healthcare professional. Keep unused medications under lock and key, far away from curious young people.

Finally, take a look at the *Opioid Summit Report: Experienced Lawyers, American Families, and the Opioid Crisis* from the American Bar Association Senior Lawyer Division.⁹ It's a call to action directed at the nation's attorneys. ■

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ENDNOTES

1. *Opioid Overdose Crisis*, Nat'l Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH (January 2019) <<https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>> [https://perma.cc/H3Z7-N2BW]. All websites cited in this article were accessed May 7, 2019.
2. *Id.*
3. Mack, *Michigan opioid overdose deaths have almost tripled in 5 years*, MLive (October 5, 2018) <https://www.mlive.com/news/2018/10/michigan_opioid_overdose_death.html> [https://perma.cc/CEM4-GUJ9].
4. *Opioid Overdose Crisis*.
5. *Controlled Substance Schedules*, Diversion Control Div, US Dept of Justice/Drug Enforcement Admin <<https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/index.html>> [https://perma.cc/7DM5-V2Q9].
6. *The Opioid Crisis—Solutions for a Rising Epidemic*, On Balance Podcast, SBM (February 22, 2019) <<https://legaltalknetwork.com/podcasts/state-bar-michigan-on-balance/2019/02/the-opioid-crisis-solutions-for-a-rising-epidemic/>> [https://perma.cc/8N85-NQAG].
7. Nelson, *The United States of Opioids: A Prescription for Liberating a Nation in Pain* (Charleston: ForbesBooks, 2019).
8. Phillips et al, *Pain Management and the Opioid Epidemic: Balancing Societal and Individual Benefits and Risks of Prescription Opioid Use* (Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2017), pp 187–266. Copy available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK458661/#sec_000151>.
9. *Experienced Lawyers, American Families, and the Opioid Crisis: Report of the Opioid Summit*, Senior Lawyers Div, ABA (May 2018) <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/senior_lawyers/resources/opioid-summit-report/> [https://perma.cc/A632-Q4XN]. See also *Opioid Summit Report: Experienced Lawyers, American Families, and the Opioid Crisis*, Senior Lawyers Div, ABA (January 29, 2019) <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/senior_lawyers/resources/opioid-summit-report/> [https://perma.cc/GVK8-5C8A].



MONEY JUDGMENT INTEREST RATE

MCL 600.6013 governs how to calculate the interest on a money judgment in a Michigan state court. Interest is calculated at six-month intervals in January and July of each year, from when the complaint was filed, and is compounded annually.

For a complaint filed after December 31, 1986, the rate as of January 1, 2019 is 3.848 percent. This rate includes the statutory 1 percent.

But a different rule applies for a complaint filed after June 30, 2002 that is based on a written instrument with its own specified interest rate. The rate is the lesser of:

- (1) 13 percent a year, compounded annually; or
- (2) the specified rate, if it is fixed—or if it is variable, the variable rate when the complaint was filed if that rate was legal.

For past rates, see <http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/other/interest.pdf>.

As the application of MCL 600.6013 varies depending on the circumstances, you should review the statute carefully.