

Name: Sarah Lightner

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Comment:

These rule changes circumvent the legislative intent of the current statute. During the pandemic, people were put out of work due to no fault of their own. However, there are plenty of jobs and to implement pandemic processes at this point are ridiculous. If a Defendant is properly served in time for the eviction hearing and they don't show up, Judges should be allowed to continue the eviction process. Just because someone shows up with a paper saying they applied for assistance shouldn't stay the whole process. They didn't fail behind by just one day in most cases, they have plenty of time to apply for assistance before a default judgement is applied. Again, these rule changes circumvent the legislative process and there should be continuity between the two, not friction. Imposing these rules within SCAO tears at the very fabric of the legislative process, therefore, I oppose implementing the rule changes.