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Comment:

I am support the changes to MCR 4.201, the eviction case court rule, that the Supreme Court has proposed. This proposed rule would inform tenants of available housing resources and give them more time to access their right to legal counsel and/or search for new housing. This will help tenants avoid court judgments and evictions that cause harm to families and communities, induce mental trauma, further poverty and creates a public record for vulnerable people making it more difficult to find new housing. This proposal is a common-sense, dignified solution that can prevent unnecessary evictions. As to MCR 4.201(B)(3)(c), the legal relationship between landlord and tenant.

Landlords should be required to follow the law if they want to leverage the court to evict tenants.

U of M Poverty Solutions Eviction Report show the eviction filing rates in Michigan are very high, in cities with large Black and low-income populations like Detroit. The occurrence of default judgments is high, and the proportion of tenants being represented by an attorney is very low. In Detroit, recent modified court procedures have reduced the rate of default judgments and increased tenants' access to counsel, but the vast majority of eviction cases are filed by landlords who do not comply with local health and safety codes. The proposed court rule amendments will better ensure basic tenant protections.

Within its authority, the Court is giving some basic consideration to the fact that Michigan and the entire country are in a rental housing crisis.

Evictions cause tremendous harm not only to the evicted families, but also the communities they live in. The proposed court rule changes will help reduce some of this harm. Please approve the proposed changes and take all actions within your power to protect the rights and lives of tenants.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Jones