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Comment:

I support and urge you to adopt the proposed changes to MCR 4.201 to protect Michigan renters. Michigan renters are one of the most disenfranchised and voiceless communities--socially, politically, and legally. The rental and housing markets in most parts of the state are out of proportion to median wages and incomes, and this puts our most vulnerable residents at risk of houselessness, including children, the elderly, and people with health and disability concerns. Housing is a human right, and in addition, Black and other minoritized communities experience default judgments, evictions, and houselessness at higher rates. Many evictions could be prevented if tenants had more time to find counsel and apply for rental assistance. Landlords have rights as well, but oftentimes those landlords who seek default judgments are the same ones who do not comply with health and safety codes. These changes put in place basic protections that all renters should have and restore some balance to a justice system that is stacked against renters.

Sincerely,
Jacquelyn Miller