

Name: Wayne State Radical Social Workers

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Comment:

I support the changes to MCR 4.201 that the Supreme Court has proposed. I encourage you to adopt these changes. Eviction is a traumatic experience that hurts our communities and disproportionately impacts poor renters of color, especially Black women and children.

The current legal eviction process is unjust. The rights of tenants are routinely violated due to a lack of time, information, and legal representation. The court's changes do not go nearly far enough, but they give tenants more information and more time to pay or seek rental assistance. We are in an unprecedented rental housing crisis. I support the use of remote technology and pre-trials in eviction proceedings, and the requirement that landlords provide personal service if they want an immediate default judgment. I support the rule that grants a stay to tenants who are seeking rental assistance. I support MCR 4.201 (B)(3)(c) because landlords should be required to follow the law if they want to leverage the court to evict tenants. Disregard the landlord industry's extremely harmful comments; they have a powerful lobby that serves their investment interests, not the public's interest.

As a group of current and future social workers, we see the impact of predatory housing policies on a regular basis in the lives of many of our clients. Safe and healthy shelter is a human right. These changes inch us closer to a society that values that right. We know that this will impact many of our clients' lives in a significant, positive way. Please adopt the proposed changes and do everything else in your power to protect the rights and lives of tenants.

Thank you,  
Wayne State University Rad Social Workers