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Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor
The Supreme Court of Ohio
65 South Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3431

Re: Suspension of Non-Emergency Landlord-Tenant Hearings, Consumer Debt Collection Hearings, Eviction Proceedings, and Sheriff Sales Due to Executive Orders Issued Due to COVID-19

Dear Madam Chief Justice:

I am writing today as the Ohio State Chair of the National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA) which is one of the leading non-profit associations in the United States committed to representing consumers' interests.

I urge the Court to take the extraordinary step of issuing an Order calling for the immediate suspension of all non-emergency landlord-tenant hearings and consumer debt collection hearings across all Small Claims Courts, Municipal Courts, and Courts of Common Pleas in the State of Ohio until both Governor DeWine and President Trump have rescinded their executive orders declaring a State of Emergency.

In addition to the suspension of all non-emergency landlord-tenant hearings and consumer debt collection hearings, I also urge this Court to issue the same declaration suspending all sheriff sales, including those to be conducted by private selling officers indefinitely.

Consumers, homeowners and borrowers have far fewer options to resolve pending collection, eviction or foreclosure cases if they have been laid off or are following executive orders to quarantine. These litigants are already at a disadvantage because so many are not represented by counsel.



We are at a critical moment when the homeowners, borrowers and consumers who are impacted are facing imminent reductions in their income or even job loss. Those civil defendants will be in a much better position to defend or resolve disputes with creditors once they are back to work. Failing to issue an order staying these proceedings is tantamount to denying these Ohioans meaningful Due Process of Law.

On behalf of NACA, I thank you for your time in considering this request and hope that the Court will issue these orders as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brian D. Flick'.

Brian D. Flick, Esq.
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Ohio State Chair, National Association of
Consumer Advocates