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DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-3413

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**DOCKET DIRECTIVE 2001-19**

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

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**SUBJECT: PROCEEDINGS REGARDING WAYNE COUNTY ABANDONED HOUSING PROGRAM AND WAYNE COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S DRUG HOUSE INITIATIVE**

This Docket Directive applies to all verified complaints and accompanying requests for ex parte orders for publication and posting and show cause hearings filed in the Third Judicial Circuit Court related to or arising out of the Abandoned Housing Program initiated by Wayne County and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Drug House Initiative.

The following procedures will apply to batch complaint filings, minimum diligent inquiry efforts, respective manner of service of process for complaints and amended complaints filed after October 24, 2000, and common evidence exhibits referenced in each complaint.

1. Each filed Verified Complaint and Request for Ex Parte Order for Publication and posting shall include allegations verifying, at minimum, the following diligent inquiry efforts with respect to named defendants:

Completion of a title search of the records of the Register of Deeds, as well as a search of Wayne County Treasurer property tax records, to identify and locate the defendants with ownership interest in the subject properties and their last known address.

On the basis of this information, forwarding a Request for Change of Address of Box Holder Information inquiry letter to the U.S. Postmaster.

On the basis of this information, conduct searches to identify the last known address of the defendant(s) utilizing electronic investigative tools available on the internet and other available tracing database services such as those provided by Lexis, Westlaw, Choicepoint (AutoTrackXP) or other similar database services.

2. Each Verified Complaint and Request for Ex Parte Order for Publication and Posting will also include allegations verifying that:

Service of process by certified mail at the last known address of defendant(s), as ascertained through diligent inquiry efforts described above, will be issued by Plaintiffs to run concurrently with the period for publication and posting.

Any unknown, unnamed claimants, owners, assigns, heirs, or designees not identified through diligent efforts conducted at the time of filing the verified complaints, cannot be ascertained at the time of filing by reasonable efforts and cannot be served by certified mail.

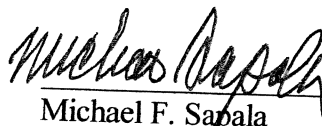
Publication of the actions in the Detroit Legal News on unnamed, unknown, owners, claimants, heirs, devisees, or assignees and Posting of the Verified Complaint and Ex Parte Order on each subject property will not only constitute service of process on any unnamed, unknown, . . . defendants, but will also further effectuate and supplement service by certified mail on known defendants.

The described and proposed manner of service of process is reasonably calculated to give the defendants actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

3. One Ex Parte Order for Publication and Posting shall be entered for and pertain to each batch of complaints filed. The Ex Parte Order shall pertain to all known defendants and their unknown, unnamed claimants, owners, devisees, heirs, or assignees. The Order shall identify all known defendants and their last known address, respective case numbers and subject property addresses, with respect to each case included in the batch filing.
4. One affidavit evidencing publication and posting shall be entered for and pertain to each batch filing. The affidavit shall list all defendants and their last known address, respective case numbers and subject property addresses, with respect to each case included in the batch filing.
5. Upon the subsequent filing of a motion for default judgment or entry of judgment on any of the identified cases, any and all diligent inquiry efforts shall be specifically detailed in an affidavit pertaining to each such case and shall otherwise be in conformity with applicable court rules.
6. Recognizing the significant costs and effort associated with providing copies of common evidence exhibits with each complaint filed in these initiatives (e.g., affidavit detailing the impact of abandoned housing on property values and the real estate market, affidavit detailing the impact of abandoned housing on community development and redevelopment efforts, news articles in an investigative series regarding the existence and notorious nature of drug houses in Detroit as sites creating hazard to health, safety and welfare of residents, documentary evidence addressing the impact and effects of drug activity on the communities in Detroit, the risk to children and the risk to fellow police officers policing

illegal drug sales and transactions), each complaint will identify all common evidence exhibits and the locations where a copy of such common evidence exhibits may be obtained. One such location shall include the Wayne County Circuit Court Clerk's office located on the 2nd floor of the Coleman A. Young Bldg and the other location may include the Wayne County internet website.

This Docket Directive supercedes Docket Directive 2000-9 and supplements Docket Directives 1999-09 and 2001-15.



Michael F. Sapala

Chief Judge

Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan

Date: August 2, 2001