

CIVIL RELIEF*General Provisions*

13. *In order to provide for, strengthen, and expedite civil defense and national defense under the emergency conditions which are threatening the peace and security of the United States and of this State and to enable this State the more successfully to fulfill the requirements of civil defense and national defense, provision is made to suspend enforcement of civil liabilities, in certain cases of persons in civil defense service in order to enable such persons to devote their entire energy to the civil defense and defense needs of the State and nation; and in certain cases of persons who have suffered personal injury or property damage in order to enable such persons to devote their entire energy to the cure or improvement of the injuries or damage suffered; and to this end the following provisions are made for the temporary suspension of legal proceedings and transactions which may prejudice the civil rights of persons in such service during the period herein specified over which this sub-title remains in force.*

14. (a) *The term "person in civil defense service" in this sub-title means a person who is a member of or who works for the State civil defense organization or a local civil defense organization.*

(b) *The term "person suffering injury or damage" in this sub-title means a person who has suffered a death in his immediate family, serious personal injury to himself or a member of his immediate family, or extensive property damage to property owned by him or by a member of his immediate family.*

(c) *The definitions in sub-sections (a) and (b) apply and the entire sub-title is effective and applicable only during the effective period of an official proclamation by the Governor which declares a stated area to be within a civil defense emergency or disaster area, actual or threatened.*

(d) *The terms "such category" or "being in such category" in this sub-title refer to the categories defined in sub-sections (a) and (b) of this section.*

(e) *The term "person" when used in this sub-title with reference to the holder of any right alleged to exist against a person in civil defense service or a person suffering injury or damage or against a person secondarily liable under such right, includes individuals, partnerships, corporations, and any other forms of business association.*

(f) *The term "court" as used in this sub-title includes any court of competent jurisdiction of this State, whether or not a court of record.*

15. (a) *The provisions of this sub-title apply to proceedings commenced in any court and shall be enforced through the usual forms of procedure obtaining in such court or under such regulations as may be by them prescribed.*

(b) *When under this sub-title any application is required to be made to a court in which no proceeding has already been commenced with respect to the matter, such application may be made to any court.*