

court rendering the same and such defendant or his legal representative let in to defend; provided it is made to appear that the defendant has a meritorious or legal defense to the action or some part thereof. Vacating, setting aside, or reversing any judgment because of any of the provisions of this subtitle does not impair any right or title acquired by a bona fide purchaser for value under such judgment.

(e) At any stage thereof any action or proceeding in any court in which a person in [civil defense] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE service or a person suffering injury or damage is involved, either as plaintiff or defendant, during the period of such service or within sixty days thereafter may, in the discretion of the court in which it is pending, or its own motion, and shall, on application to it by such person or some person on his behalf, be stayed as provided in this subtitle, unless, in the opinion of the court, the ability of plaintiff to prosecute the action or the defendant to conduct his defense is not materially affected by reason of being a person in [civil defense] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE service or a person suffering injury or damage.

18.

When an action for compliance with the terms of any contract is stayed pursuant to this subtitle no fine or penalty shall accrue by reason of failure to comply with the terms of such contract during the period of such stay, and in any case where a person fails to perform any obligation and a fine or penalty for such nonperformance is incurred a court may, on such terms as may be just, relieve against the enforcement of such fine or penalty if it shall appear that the person who would suffer by such fine or penalty was a person in [civil defense] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE service or a person suffering injury or damage when the penalty was incurred and that by reason of being in such category the ability of such person to pay or perform was thereby materially impaired.

19.

In any action or proceeding commenced in any court against a person in [civil defense] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE service or a person suffering injury or damage, before or during the period of being in such a category, or within sixty days thereafter, the court may, in its discretion, on its own motion, or on application to it by such person or some person on his behalf shall, unless in the opinion of the court the ability of the defendant to comply with the judgment or order entered or sought is not materially affected by reason of his being a person in [civil defense] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE service or a person suffering injury or damage --