

suffering injury or damage is a party if such party does not personally appear therein or is not represented by an authorized attorney, the court may appoint an attorney to represent him; and in such case a like bond may be required and an order made to protect the rights of such persons. But no attorney appointed under this subtitle to protect a person in emergency management [and civil defense] service or a person suffering injury or damage shall have power to waive any right of the person for whom he is appointed or bind him by his acts.

(d) If any judgment shall be rendered in any action or proceeding governed by this section against any person in emergency management [and civil defense] service or a person suffering injury or damage during the period of being in such category or within thirty days thereafter, and it appears that such person was prejudiced by reason of his being a person in emergency management [and civil defense] service or a person suffering injury or damage in making his defense thereto, such judgment may, upon application being made by such person or his legal representative, not later than ninety days after the termination of being in such category, be opened by the 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 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 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