

or penalty was a person in 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 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 emergency management [and civil defense] service or a person suffering injury or damage --

(1) Stay the execution of any judgment or order entered against such person, as provided in this subtitle; and

(2) Vacate or stay any attachment or garnishment of property, money, or debts in the hands of another, whether before or after judgment as provided in this subtitle.

20.

Any stay of any action, proceeding, attachment, or execution, ordered by any court under the provisions of this subtitle may, except as otherwise provided, be ordered for the period of being in such category and three months thereafter or any part of such period, and subject to such terms as may be just, whether as to payment in instalments of such amounts and at such times as the court may fix or otherwise. When a person in emergency management [and civil defense] service or a person suffering injury or damage is a codefendant with others the plaintiff may nevertheless by leave of court proceed against the others.

21.

The period of being in such category shall not be included in computing any period now or hereafter to be limited by any law for the bringing of any action by or against a person in emergency management [and civil defense] service or a person suffering injury or damage or by or against his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, whether such cause of action shall have accrued prior to or during the period of being in such category.

22.