

4. THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE ACTION.

(III) THE NOTICE SHALL BE:

~~1. HAND DELIVERED PROVIDED TO THE TENANT, IF ANY, AND THE OWNER OF RECORD; OR~~

~~2. SENT BY CERTIFIED MAIL TO THE TENANT, IF ANY, AND THE OWNER OF RECORD IN THE SAME MANNER AS SERVICE OF PROCESS IN A CIVIL IN PERSONAM ACTION UNDER THE MARYLAND RULES.~~

(IV) IN FILING A SUIT UNDER THIS SECTION, AN OFFICER OF THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SHALL CERTIFY TO THE COURT:

1. WHAT STEPS THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HAS TAKEN TO SATISFY THE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION; AND

2. THAT EACH CONDITION PRECEDENT TO THE FILING OF AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION HAS BEEN MET.

(4) RELIEF MAY NOT BE PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION UNLESS THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FILES WITH THE COURT A BOND IN AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE COURT AND WITH A SURETY APPROVED BY THE COURT, CONDITIONED TO ANSWER TO THE ADVERSE PARTY FOR ANY COSTS THE PARTY MAY SUSTAIN AS A RESULT OF THE SUIT, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES, IF THE COURT FINDS THAT THE ACTION WAS FILED IN BAD FAITH OR WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL JUSTIFICATION.

(5) (I) AN ACTION MAY NOT BE BROUGHT AGAINST AN OWNER OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY UNLESS, PRIOR TO THE GIVING OF NOTICE UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(3)(I) OF THIS SECTION, A NOTICE OF VIOLATION RELATING TO THE NUISANCE HAS FIRST BEEN ISSUED BY AN APPROPRIATE CODE ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

(II) IN THE CASE OF A NUISANCE BASED ON A HOUSING OR BUILDING CODE VIOLATION, OTHER THAN A RECURRENT SANITATION VIOLATION, RELIEF MAY NOT BE GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION UNLESS A VIOLATION NOTICE RELATING TO THE NUISANCE HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND REMAINS OUTSTANDING AFTER A PERIOD OF 75 DAYS.

(6) (I) IF A VIOLATION NOTICE IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE ACTION, A COPY OF THE NOTICE SIGNED BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SHALL BE PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF THE FACTS CONTAINED IN THE NOTICE.

(II) A NOTICE OF ABATEMENT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN REGARD TO THE VIOLATION NOTICE SHALL BE PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE PLAINTIFF IS NOT ENTITLED TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED.

~~(5)~~ (7) A PROCEEDING UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

(I) TAKE PRECEDENCE ON THE DOCKET;