## SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY

IN RE THE PROCEEDING FOR KING COUNTY FOR THE FORECLOSURE OF LIENS FOR DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAXES AND FEES FOR THE YEARS 2020-2023 AND SOME PRIOR YEARS. NO. 23 - 2 - 22449 - 3 SEA

NOTICE OF PROTECTION: SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT AND WASHINGTON STATE LAW

## TO: Active Military Service Members and their Dependents

State and federal law provide protections to defendants who are on active duty in the military service, and to their dependents.

A federal law, known as the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act ("Act"), provides protections to individuals who are on active duty in the military service and to their dependents. Servicemembers covered by the Act includes members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard on active duty; members of the National Guard called to active duty by the President or Secretary of Defense for over thirty (30) days; and commissioned members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. Dependents of a service member are the service member's spouse, the service member's minor child, or an individual for whom the service member provided more than one-half of the individual's support for one hundred eighty (180) days immediately preceding an application for relief under the Federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. One protection provided under the

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Act is a limitation on sale of property to enforce a tax assessment and pertains to taxes or assessments that fall due and remain unpaid during a period of military service. Servicemembers may also have other rights and protections not covered by this notice.

If you are a service member on active duty in military service or the dependent of an active duty service member, you should notify the plaintiff's attorneys in writing of your status as such within twenty days (20) of the receipt of this notice, but no later than June 1, 2024. Providing a copy of your deployment orders to the attorneys listed below shall satisfy this requirement. If you fail to do so, then a court may presume that you are not on active duty, or a dependent of an active-duty service member and enter an order that military service does not materially affect your ability to pay the unpaid tax or assessment.

The remainder of this document is intended to comply with the notice requirement in RCW 38.42.050.

State and federal law provide protections to defendants who are on active duty in the military service, and to their dependents. Dependents of a service member are the service member's spouse, the service member's minor child, or an individual for whom the service member provided more than one-half of the individual's support for one hundred eighty days (180) immediately preceding an application for relief.

One protection provided is the protection against the entry of a default judgment in certain circumstances. This notice only pertains to a defendant who is a dependent of a member of the National Guard or a military reserve component under a call to active service for a period of more than thirty (30) consecutive days. Other defendants in military service also have protections against default judgments not covered by this notice. If you are the dependent of a

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member of the national guard or a military reserve component under a call to active service for a period of more than thirty (30) consecutive days, you should notify the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorneys in writing of your status as such within twenty (20) days of the receipt of this notice. If you fail to do so, then a court or an administrative tribunal may presume that you are not a dependent of an active-duty member of the national guard or reserves and proceed with the entry of an order of default and/or a default judgment without further proof of your status. Your response to the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorneys about your status does not constitute an appearance for jurisdictional purposes in any pending litigation nor a waiver of your rights.

If you are a service member, family member of a service member or dependent of a service member, the King County Veteran's Services Program may be able to help you find resources to assist you. You may contact them at (206) 263-8387. You may also contact King County's attorney at the address below if you have any questions about the tax foreclosure process.

DATED this 14th day of November 2023 at Seattle, Washington.

LEESA MANION (she/her) King County Prosecuting Attorney

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NOTICE OF PROTECTION: SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT AND WASHINGTON STATE LAW-3

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