



October 9, 2019

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
The Legal Aid Society
rhaskins@legal-aid.org
(929) 441-2384

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

***LEGAL AID CALLS ON NYCHA TO IMMEDIATELY TERMINATE
EVICITION PROCEEDING AGAINST CLIENT CURRENTLY
AILING FROM TERMINAL CANCER***

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** called on the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to immediately terminate an eviction proceeding against a Legal Aid client – William Sanchez – who is 64 years old and suffers from stage-four cancer. Mr. Sanchez is a resident of the Woodson Houses in Brownsville, Brooklyn.

In 2015, Mr. Sanchez moved in to his ailing mother’s Woodson Houses apartment to care for her. During those months, Mr. Sanchez and his mother made multiple attempts with the Housing Authority to add him to the household composition but they were unable to complete the arduous bureaucratic process as his mother was too ill to appear multiple times at NYCHA’s management office to sign all the relevant documentation.

During this time, Mr. Sanchez was diagnosed with advanced stage liver cancer, which has now metastasized to his throat. He underwent an intensive course of chemotherapy and radiation this past summer at Perlmutter Cancer Center in Manhattan, where he continues to be monitored and treated as he recovers from that therapy.

In October of 2017, Legal Aid filed an Article 78 lawsuit to stay eviction proceedings after he lost his remaining family member grievance, which would have allowed him to assume the tenancy. However, because Mr. Sanchez was unable to submit the needed paperwork while caring for his ailing mother and tending to his own health issues, a Judge ruled against this motion the following February.

NYCHA then restored its eviction proceeding against Mr. Sanchez in Housing Court in August 2018 but stipulated to a six-month stay, which has been briefly extended by subsequent court orders. All stays expired on October 7, 2019, and today's Order to Show Cause filed by Legal Aid seeks to preempt any attempt from the Housing Authority to evict Mr. Sanchez based on his current health condition.

“Despite Mr. Sanchez’s stage-four cancer diagnosis and failing health, we are shocked that NYCHA continues to prioritize his eviction,” said **Michael Klinger, staff attorney with the Brooklyn Neighborhood Office at The Legal Aid Society**. “We demand that the Housing Authority stay its holdover proceeding against Mr. Sanchez immediately and let our client live his life in peace without having to worry about becoming homeless.”

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>