

657A.2 Petition.

1. A petition for abatement under this chapter may be filed in the district court of the county in which the property is located, by the city in which the property is located, by the county if the property is located outside the limits of a city, by a neighboring landowner, or by a duly organized nonprofit corporation which has as one of its goals the improvement of housing conditions in the county or city in which the property in question is located. Service on the owner shall be by personal service or by certified mail, or if service cannot be made by either method, by posting the notice in a conspicuous place on the building and by publication.

2. If a petition filed pursuant to this chapter alleges that a building is abandoned or is in a dangerous or unsafe condition, the city, county, if the property is located outside the limits of a city, neighboring landowner, or nonprofit corporation may apply for an injunction requiring the owner of the building to correct the condition or to eliminate the condition or violation. The court shall conduct a hearing at least twenty days after written notice of the application for an injunction and of the date and time of the hearing is served upon the owner of the building. Notice of the hearing shall be served in the manner provided in subsection 1.

3. If the court finds at the hearing that the building is abandoned or is in a dangerous or unsafe condition, the court shall issue an injunction requiring the owner to correct the condition or to eliminate the violation, or another order that the court considers necessary or appropriate to correct the condition or to eliminate the violation.

4. In a proceeding under this chapter, if the court makes the finding described in subsection 3 and additionally finds that the building in question is a public nuisance and that the owner of the building has been afforded reasonable opportunity to correct the dangerous or unsafe condition found or to eliminate the violation found but has refused or failed to do so, the judge shall cause notice of the findings to be served upon the owner, each mortgagee or other lienholder of record, and other known interested persons, and shall order the persons served to show cause why a receiver should not be appointed to perform work and to furnish material that reasonably may be required to abate the public nuisance. The notice shall be served in the manner provided in subsection 1.

5. In a proceeding under this chapter, if the court determines the building is not abandoned or is not in a dangerous or unsafe condition, the court shall dismiss the petition and may require the petitioner to pay the owner's reasonable attorney fees actually incurred.

85 Acts, ch 222, §2; 87 Acts, ch 113, §1, 2; 96 Acts, ch 1204, § 28; 2004 Acts, ch 1165, §9, 11