News Brief

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Supreme Court Blocks Biden's Eviction Moratorium

The Supreme Court recently <u>blocked</u> the Biden administration's <u>targeted eviction moratorium</u>, which was issued on Aug. 3, 2021, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The moratorium temporarily halted evictions in counties with heightened levels of community transmission of COVID-19 and was set to expire on Oct. 3, 2021.

The CDC originally issued a renters protection moratorium in 2020 in response to the financial hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The original protections were extended multiple times before expiring on July 31, 2021, prompting the targeted moratorium from the CDC.

After the targeted moratorium was issued on Aug. 3, it was challenged by a group of landlords that argued the CDC had exceeded its existing statutory authority by issuing the nationwide eviction ban. The Supreme Court agreed, ruling that if a federally imposed eviction moratorium were to continue, it must be authorized specifically by Congress.

"The CDC has imposed a nationwide moratorium on evictions in reliance on a decades-old statute that authorizes it to implement measures like fumigation and pest extermination. It strains credulity to believe that this statute grants the CDC the sweeping authority that it asserts."

- Majority opinion, Alabama Association of Realtors v. HHS

Critics of the decision have argued it will put renters across the country at risk of eviction from their homes while potentially creating greater risk of community exposure to COVID-19.

What This Means

Renters no longer have federal protections provided by the eviction moratorium. However, many states currently have eviction moratoriums in place. Individuals should check for updates from local officials for more information.

We will keep you informed of any noteworthy updates.

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