

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

DENNIS A. BANKS, and JANET M. )  
BANKS, )  
 )  
Plaintiffs, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
CITIMORTGAGE, INC., and )  
MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC )  
REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, )  
 )  
Defendants. )

4:11CV3203

**MEMORANDUM  
AND ORDER**

This matter is before the court on Plaintiffs’ Motion for Temporary Restraining Order. (Filing No. [2](#).) In this Motion, Plaintiffs ask the court enter an emergency order preventing Defendants from foreclosing on Plaintiffs’ property located in Lincoln, Nebraska. ([Id.](#))

The standards set forth by [Dataphase Sys., Inc. v. C.L. Sys., Inc., 640 F.2d 109 \(8th Cir. 1981\)](#), apply to Plaintiffs’ Motion. In *Dataphase*, the court, sitting *en banc*, clarified the factors district courts should consider when determining whether to grant a motion for preliminary injunctive relief:

- (1) the threat of irreparable harm to the movant;
- (2) the state of balance between this harm and the injury that granting the injunction will inflict on other parties litigant;
- (3) the probability that movant will succeed on the merits;
- and (4) the public interest.

[Id. at 114](#). “No single factor in itself is dispositive; rather, each factor must be considered to determine whether the balance of equities weighs toward granting the injunction.” [United Indus. Corp. v. Clorox Co., 140 F.3d 1175, 1179 \(8th Cir. 1998\)](#). “At base, the question is whether the balance of equities so favors the movant that justice requires the court to intervene to preserve the status quo until the merits are

determined. . . .” [Dataphase, 640 F.2d at 113.](#)

Plaintiffs request a temporary order to restrain Defendants from continuing ongoing state-court foreclosure proceedings. (Filing No. [2](#).) This court is mindful of its obligation to promote comity between state and federal judicial bodies and will “abstain from exercising jurisdiction in cases where equitable relief would interfere with pending state proceedings.” [Aaron v. Target Corp., 357 F.3d 768, 774 \(8th Cir. 2004\)](#). Courts use the doctrine developed in *Younger v. Harris* to carry out this policy. [401 U.S. 37 \(1971\)](#). Under *Younger*, a federal court should abstain from jurisdiction “when (1) there is an ongoing state judicial proceeding which (2) implicates important state interests, and when (3) that proceeding affords an adequate opportunity to raise the federal questions presented.” [Norwood v. Dickey, 409 F.3d 901, 903 \(8th Cir. 2005\)](#) (quoting [Fuller v. Ulland, 76 F.3d 957, 959 \(8th Cir.1996\)](#)); *see also* [Gray v. Pagano, 287 F. App’x 155, 157-58 \(3d Cir. 2008\)](#) (affirming district court’s abstention under *Younger* where state-court foreclosure action was pending and “[a]ny relief that could be granted by the district court would directly impact Pennsylvania’s interest in protecting the authority of its judicial system”); [Doscher v. Menifee Circuit Court, 75 F. App’x 996, 997 \(6th Cir. 2003\)](#) (affirming district court’s abstention where state foreclosure action was pending because all three *Younger* requirements were met).

In light of this, the court finds that the *Dataphase* factors do not favor Plaintiffs to a degree sufficient to warrant issuance of preliminary injunctive relief. In balancing all of the factors, it is apparent that Plaintiffs have not alleged, or submitted any evidence showing, that it is probable they will succeed on the merits of their claims. Although Defendants have not yet been served with summons or filed answers, it is likely that the court will dismiss this matter in accordance with *Younger* principles. Thus, in consideration of all of the factors, the court sees no reason to “intervene to preserve the status quo until the merits are determined . . . .” [Dataphase, 640 F.2d at 113.](#)

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that: Plaintiffs' Motion for Temporary Restraining Order (filing no. [2](#)) is denied.

DATED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2011.

BY THE COURT:

*Richard G. Kopf*

United States District Judge

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