

Faulk, Camilla

From: Stanley Phillips [Phillisj@co.thurston.wa.us]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2006 2:10 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Proposed Criminal Rules 4.6 & 4.11

Dear WA State Supreme Court Justices:

Thank you for allowing public comment on proposed Criminal Rules 4.6 and 4.11. As a Victim Services professional for the past six years, and a former law enforcement officer, I strongly disagree with the proposed rule changes that would force crime victims and witnesses to be audiotape recorded. Crime victims and witnesses do not choose this position, they are thrust into the justice system against their will and these proposed rules go further in taking away their rights by being audio taped.

In my experience, most victims and witnesses have already been subject to a thorough law enforcement audio taped interview prior to the case ever arriving at the Prosecutor's Office. Despite maneuvering through a criminal justice system that was built around criminals and their needs and rights, crime victims enjoy only a fraction of benefits and rights. Forcing crime victims and witnesses to relive the traumatic events of a crime on an audiotape is blatantly unfair and unnecessary.

These rules are a thinly veiled attempt by the defense bar in Washington State to intimidate and compel crime victims and witnesses to cooperate when the reality is, most already do. Further, intimidation tactics are unnecessary for interviewing victims and witnesses when no proof is offered that the current system of interviewing is defective.

I strongly encourage you to vote against proposed Criminal Rules 4.6 and 4.11, and take a stand for crime victims rights in Washington State.

Very Truly Yours,

Stanley J. Phillips, MS
Victim Advocate