

Faulk, Camilla

From: Ingham, Annette [AINGHAM@spokanecounty.org]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 2:03 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Oppose CrR 4.11

Ms. Faulk-

I am writing this in opposition of proposed CrR 4.11. I am the Victim/Witness Manager of the Spokane County Prosecutor's Office and have been a systems based advocate for 15 years. I have worked with thousands of victims ranging from homicide, vehicular homicide, assault, robbery, sexual assault, burglary, domestic violence, gang violence, property, identity theft, etc. cases. The victims ages have ranged from 3 years old to 90+ years old. About 75% of the victims I have worked with have never been involved with the criminal justice system. If you have never been involved in this complex system, imagine the maze in which we have to educate the victims/witnesses brought into an unwanted arena.

Victims have very few rights. The majority of the victims I have worked with have been very cooperative in attending defense interviews. Yes, they are apprehensive and don't really want to rehash what happened. I have only experienced one time wherein the defense had a deposition of a witness and it was because the witness was being deployed to Iraq (this was a witness to a homicide).

As far as I know, the defense attorneys that work here in Spokane have investigators who also attend defense interviews, both the defense attorney and investigator take accurate notes, they ask the appropriate questions pertaining to the information in the witness statements and they have the ability to cross-examine the witnesses. The decision to be recorded should only be at the discretion of the witness themselves; this should not be the decision made by an attorney or the court. This would just be another way to intimidate the victims that we help.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider this very important issue. Put yourself in the shoes of a crime victim - how would you feel being told you had no choice but to be tape recorded for an interview regarding a horrific crime!

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