

Faulk, Camilla

From: Laura Riquelme [laurar@co.skagit.wa.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 4:55 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Proposed CrR 4.11

I urge you to adopt the proposed court rule CrR 4.11.

I believe that the recording of witness statements is helpful to everyone involved because there is no way the statements can be misconstrued. The statements can be transcribed and preserved without errors from notetaking or perceptions of the interviewer getting in the way. Additionally, the rule protects these witnesses from having their interviews disseminated beyond the parties to the case. This safeguard seems sufficient to protect witnesses' privacy interests.

Further, adoption of this rule should save money. Most criminal defendants are represented by public defenders, which means that county/state funding pays for investigation and, should there be a deposition, stenographers. By permitting recording of these interviews, investigation costs will be kept down and there will be less need for depositions. All of these services might seem to be paid from public defense budgets, but those funds ultimately originate in taxpayers' pockets.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Riquelme

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