



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
14TH & Jefferson ~ PO Box 45720 • Olympia WA • 98504-5720

May 12, 2014

Justice Charles Johnson
Supreme Court Rules Committee
c/o Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RE: Proposed JuCR 1.6 – Physical Restraints in the Courtroom

Dear Justice Johnson and Members of the Rules Committee:

The Juvenile Justice & Rehabilitation Administration of the Department of Social and Health Services is pleased to submit this letter in support of the proposed JuCR 1.6 regarding the individualized use of physical restraints in the courtroom for juveniles.

The youth we serve in Juvenile Rehabilitation represent the “deep end” of the juvenile justice system. We remain deeply committed to the mission of rehabilitation and assisting youth in their successful transition and reentry back to our communities. The proposed court rule supports the mission of rehabilitation by addressing each youth on an individual basis, recognizing the individual progress that each youth continues to make, and respecting the dignity and humanity of each child. Treating each youth with respect and reducing shackling where possible demonstrates to the youth the commitment of the court to rehabilitation. The court rule is also an important step towards improving procedural justice in Washington State and improving the public perception of fairness in our juvenile justice system.

Adopting this court rule that addresses shackling of juveniles and public safety needs on an individual basis provides a statewide framework supportive of the mission of rehabilitation codified in Washington State’s RCW. Concerns about “what could happen” should not override the national leadership demonstrated by Washington State in our progressive approach to rehabilitation in juvenile justice.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Clayton".

John Clayton, Assistant Secretary
Juvenile Justice & Rehabilitation Administration
Department of Social and Health Services