



center for  
**CHILDREN & YOUTH**  
JUSTICE

April 30, 2014

Chief Justice Barbara J. Madsen  
Members of the Washington State Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 40929  
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

In the Matter of the Adoption of Proposed New JuCR 1.6

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

I write to urge your adoption of Proposed New JuCR 1.6.

Proposed JuCR 1.6 addresses the routine shackling of children and youth in courtrooms without individualized findings that such restraints are necessary to protect safety of either the public or the individual. Research demonstrates that such practice results in harm to the young person, bringing psychological damage that may persist long beyond the court appearance.

Proposed JuCR 1.6 would provide a standard procedure for courts to determine whether a juvenile should be shackled in the courtroom. It does not prohibit shackling, but requires a finding by the court, on the record, that such restraints are the least restrictive means to ensure courtroom security and personal safety. It does not prohibit shackling during transport of the juvenile from a detention facility, through common areas in the courthouse, to the courtroom.

I appreciate your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Justice Bobbe J. Bridge, ret.  
Founding President/CEO  
Center for Children & Youth Justice

Cc: Nanette B. Sullins

615 2nd Ave, Ste 275

Seattle, WA 98104

206.696.7503

www.ccyj.org

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