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Subject: FW: SUPPORT - Proposed changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4
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From: Maialisa Vanyo [mailto:MVanyo@co.whatcom.wa.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:27 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: SUPPORT - Proposed changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4

I write to express my support for changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4 that would reduce the number of required physical appearances for criminal defendants. I support these changes for the reasons expressed by the Washington Defender Association.

As a public defender in a rural county, I represent defendants who face special difficulties in making personal appearances for court. My clients are indigent, often without reliable transportation, and they must travel from far-flung locales to attend court in-person. Public transportation is often unavailable for my clients and where it is available can be very time consuming. Requiring attendance at court hearings complicates childcare, school, and employment for defendants who are already struggling under tremendous financial and emotional stress.

As an officers of the court, the defense bar can be trusted to make truthful representations to the court regarding our contact with our clients and to take the appropriate steps to make progress on their cases.

Respectfully,

Maialisa Vanyo
Chief Deputy
she/her/hers

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