

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Cc: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Comment on proposed changes to CrR 3.4 & CrRLJ 3.4
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 1:20:36 PM

From: NCBF Admin [mailto:ncbfadmin@nwcombailfund.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 1:18 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment on proposed changes to CrR 3.4 & CrRLJ 3.4

Northwest Community Bail Fund supports the proposed changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4.

We provide support to help defendants keep their required court appearances, and we have first hand knowledge of how burdensome the attendance requirements can be. Court schedules are set with little regard for the impact on the defendant. Effects such as disruption of work schedules and job opportunities, school and training opportunities, caregiving responsibilities, and transportation and parking fees are routine impositions. We can point to many instances where defendants we support have been required to be present every 2-5 weeks for months on end, only to miss one court date and have bail revoked.

One example from our files is the case of Mr. R. We covered the cost of bail so Mr. R could contest his case without pressure to take a plea. Here's is appearance history:

2/11/19 - court cancelled for weather, but he came anyway, then sought his attorney at the office

2/14/19 - made a trip to the attorneys office to find out new court date

3/18/19 - attended hearing - OTA

4/22/19- attended hearing - PTH

5/20/19 - attended hearing - OTA

6/24/19 - attended hearing - PTH

7/22/19 - attended hearing - PTH

7/26/19 - attended hearing - readiness

7/30/19 - missed hearing - bail forfeited - spent over two weeks in jail then re-released on new bail

8/19/19 - attended hearing - BWADD

9/23/19 - attended hearing - PTH

10/8/18 - Alford plea on one of two charges

10/28/19 - attended hearing - PTH

12/16/19 - attended hearing - PTH

12/30/19 - attended hearing - PTH

1/27/19 - remaining charge **dismissed with prejudice**

This case highlights just how burdensome and disruptive it can be to daily life to require the defendant's attendance at each procedural hearing.