

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Adopt the Changes to CrR 3.4 & CrRLJ 3.4
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:27:14 AM

From: Sarah Nassif [mailto:sarah.marie.nassif@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:25 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Adopt the Changes to CrR 3.4 & CrRLJ 3.4

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sarah Nassif and I live in Renton, WA. I am contacting you because I believe that low-income people in my community, and throughout Washington, deserve the right to effectively defend themselves when they are accused of a crime.

Attending court can, and often is, a significant burden on people with limited resources to support themselves and their families. Attending court hearings requires many defendants to take time off work (if they can get it without jeopardizing their job), arrange for child care and transportation - all things that cost time and money and can exacerbate precarious financial circumstances.

People should not have to choose between being responsible to their work and their families or answering criminal charges and defending their rights. The convictions that can result from failing to appear at court have devastating consequences including job loss, increased financial hardship, and/or deportation.

I ask that you recognize the realities of low-income community members by adopting the changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4 requiring people to attend court hearings that the Washington Defender Association has proposed.

These changes would be a significant and much-needed step to ensure defendants do not have to suffer the consequences of having to attend or being unable to attend procedural or administrative court hearings that can be appropriately handled by the appearance of their attorneys.

I believe this is a simple, common-sense action that Washington State can take to address an on-going problem in equitable access to our court system. This act will help low-income defendants to equitably participate in our state's court system without compromising the ability of the courts to see that justice is done.

Sincerely,
Sarah Nassif