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To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: proposed changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4
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From: Thomas Paynter [mailto:tpaynter@bhamac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 12:58 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: proposed changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4

Hello,

I am a practicing public defender and I am writing in support of allowing defendants to appear through their attorneys, particularly for pretrial hearings. I practice in municipal court, where many defendants are charged with suspended driving license crimes, as well as for alcohol- and drug-related crimes. In DWLS cases, it is often the practice to continue the case until the defendant can get his or her license restored, in which case the prosecutor will offer a plea to a reduced charge. For alcohol- and drug-related offenses, prosecutors often want to see a drug and alcohol evaluation and treatment plan before reaching a plea agreement.

These cases are often continued repeatedly. Requiring defendants to personally appear often means they sit in court for two hours only to appear before the judge for two minutes to enter an agreed continuance and speedy-trial waiver. That means indigent clients are forced to take time off work, and people without driver's licenses are forced to find a way to travel to court.

I support the WDA's proposed rule change. Thank you.

Thomas C. Paynter