

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4
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From: Timothy Goss [mailto:twgoss@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:59 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Proposed Changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4

I have been a public defender for 27 years in the State of Washington. Over that time period I have become increasingly aware of the consequences indigent defendants face as a result of the court process itself. A typical misdemeanor case, even if things run smoothly can require that a defendant appear in court five times before getting to trial. Unfortunately, many cases don't go smoothly and require far more appearances than that.

Obviously frequent court appearances put jobs at risk, create child care issues and pose the risk of bench warrants. Perhaps more concerning is that it also impacts outcomes for indigent clients. Not a week goes by where I don't have a client tell me, "I can't keep coming to court." Their reasons often have to do with work, but sometimes the mere cost of getting to court is an issue. As a result of this pressure I have seen too many clients waive their right to trial and accept unfavorable offers in situations where they could have had very strong cases for trial.

Please consider adopting these proposed changes in the interest of increasing access to justice. Thank you for your consideration,

Timothy Goss

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