

Faulk, Camilla

From: Daniel Bigelow [DBigelow@wapa-sep.wa.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 1:16 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Proposed CrR 4.11 - comment

I'm writing to express opposition to the proposed requirement that witnesses in criminal cases submit to recorded interviews.

I like recorded interviews and encourage them. But not all good ideas should be legislated. There is a liberty interest in being able to set the conditions under which one will exercise one's right to speech. Liberty interests are what this country enshrines above all. We should not be restricting peoples' First Amendment liberties on the grounds that doing so is more convenient for everybody in the criminal justice system.

The system we have is working. True, it might work a bit better if more people submitted to tape-recorded interviews rather than standing on their rights and refusing them. But the first solution we think of to problems created by people standing on their rights should not be to take those rights away. Infringing on First Amendment liberties is the sort of thing we should be doing only as a last resort, not as a fine-tuning measure.

Please Note: Your email is important to us. Our email system uses an aggressive SPAM Filter. If you have not received a reply to your email, please call our office and we will add you to our SPAM Filter. Thank you.