

April 30, 2012

RECEIVED BY E-MAIL

Camilla Faulk, Supreme Court Clerk
Washington State Supreme Court
Temple of Justice
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Proposed changes to Superior Court Criminal Rule 4.6

Dear Ms. Faulk,

As the Deputy Executive Director of King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, I am writing to convey our organization's strong opposition to the proposed changes to CrR 4.6. Substituting a "good cause" standard for the current language will negatively impact crime victims.

Defendants have the right to decide whether to submit to interviews and depositions, and Washington law states that the rights of crime victims should be protected "in a matter no less vigorous than the protections afforded criminal defendants." RCW 7.69.010. The reality, however, is that in our defendant-centered criminal justice system, victim rights are treated as secondary to those of the defendant.

While victim interviews in King County are routinely recorded, victims are given the choice. Lowering the threshold where witness depositions, which are essentially recorded interviews, will be ordered is inappropriate as it may lead to further victim traumatization, violations of the victims' privacy, and abuse tactics by defense attorneys and pro se defendants.

A similar proposed amendment to CrR 4.11 was previously rejected last year. Again, we urge you to reject the proposed changes to CrR 4.6 as they further erode the already limited rights of victims.

Sincerely,



DeAnn Yamamoto, M.A.
Deputy Executive Director