

Faulk, Camilla

From: Sheri Connor [robinsheri@frontier.com]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2012 5:28 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Re: comment CcR. 3.1

Hello Ms. Fault,

I would like to submit a comment on CrR 3.1 - Right to and Assignment of Lawyer. As a nurse I had the fortune to sit in on a pretrial hearing in which the Defendant was representing himself. During the course of the hearing the defendant took every opportunity to harass and intimidate the victim without the judge once calling him on his behavior. To watch the victim being terrorized (yes I mean this in its fullest sense) was illuminating. I came away from this hearing with the firm belief that there is no protection for the victims of violence when their accused abusers are allowed to question them in court. I lost respect for the judge and the justice system. I understand that we all have rights and I don't think we should remove the rights of the accused but as a civilized society we need to also balance the accused rights with the rights of their alleged victims. I believe this is possible if the courts wish it to be and I hope that the courts will do this.

Since defendants are still assigned a lawyer when they choose to defend themselves, I would hope that the court will rule that the defendant and their lawyer are directed to discuss what questions can be asked and that the lawyer be the one to directly question the victims; the defendant can still question witnesses but the victims will be given some protection. However, if the court rules against protecting victims then I hope that judges will be directed to be more proactive in clamping down on excesses of behavior that can and do occur when the defendant is allowed to represent himself.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sheri Connor