

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 10:44 AM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: REJECT- Proposed changes to criminal court rules WA

From: Tracie Jarratt [mailto:TJarratt@Rentonwa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 10:43 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: REJECT- Proposed changes to criminal court rules WA

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have been in law enforcement for 24 years; I am currently a detective assigned to investigate sexual assaults against children and officer involved shootings when they happen. These cases are highly sensitive and are hard to investigate. The proposed rule changes would be absolutely DEVASTATING to any police investigation; from a minor shoplift to a rape or homicide.

CrR 3.7 and 3.8 will stop effective law enforcement, period. If we require recording we will eliminate a vast majority of people that would likely aid in a criminal investigation. I investigate sexual assault and shooting/homicides in an area where people often don't want to talk to police. This would further spread the divide between law enforcement and some groups untrusting of the government (minority, immigrants etc). Requiring a recording would stop the sometimes willing to speak with law enforcement. Many victims, witnesses and even suspects come to us with critical information they will tell us or even write for us but recording is off the table for a wide variety of reasons (embarrassment, fear of retaliation etc). This would wholeheartedly obstruct police investigations. It is almost laughable that we would require parties to give a recorded statement saying they don't want to be recorded.

On a different but important note; the money. Who is going to pay for everything necessary to attempt to abide by these ridiculous changes. This was brought to the Supreme court by Council for the Defense, they proposed changes that would benefit themselves and the people they defend. This is a slap in the face to all victims and law enforcement and would damage future victims. This would be a tragic change that most if not all police departments cannot afford. There is no funding proposed. If the laws are changed there would be no way to afford the necessary equipment that would be needed for this change in our working conditions. Equipment, server storage, redundant storage, maintenance etc would cost in the millions for each individual agency.

Smarter folks than me can argue the legality of these proposed changes. As a servant of the Constitution, my state and my city I can only tell you how devastating these proposals will be to our community members that rely upon us, me, law enforcement to uphold our laws and hold those accountable for their criminal actions.

Our hands are already tied in the courts. I feel like I lie by omission to the judge/jury/court when I'm sworn in, '...promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth...' YES. I want to! But there are already so many laws that don't allow us to actually TELL the **WHOLE** truth! I only get to share about what I am ASKED in court and many times I'm advised I cannot bring up certain topics or events. We are already doing police work with one hand cuffed behind our backs. Making this change would handcuff both hands behind our back. Please do not accept these changes.

Respectfully,

Tracie Jarratt

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Monday-Thursday 8:30AM-6:30PM

