

To: Clerk of the Supreme Court

Fr: Mary Ellen Stone, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center

RE: proposed amendments to CrR and CrRLJ

April 28, 2019

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) wishes to state its strong opposition to the proposed amendments to the Superior Court Criminal Rules (CrR) and Criminal Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (CrRLJ).

KCSARC is the largest sexual assault service provider in Washington. In addition to our extensive trauma informed crisis intervention, advocacy and therapy we also provide legal advocacy to over 1,000 children, teen and adult victims of sexual assault each year.

We believe victims of sexual assault (and all victims of crime) must be treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and sensitivity; and that the rights extended in this chapter to victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crime are honored and protected by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges in a manner no less vigorous than the protections afforded criminal defendants. (RCW 7.69.010)

We echo the comments of our colleagues in the prosecutor's office regarding the chilling impact this proposed rule change would have on victim's rights and privacy.

Specifically, we reject the proposal to provide all discovery to the defendant without knowledge of the prosecution, to use the refusal to be recorded as a basis for questioning a victim's testimony and pressure victims to agree to be recorded.

At a time of increased public awareness of sexual assault, the challenges victims face in coming forward and the appallingly low rates of reporting, these proposed rule changes are antithetical to the progress we have made for victims of sexual assault in Washington State.

I respectfully request that you reject these proposed amendments.

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 8:11 AM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: response to proposed amendments CrR 3.7 et al
Attachments: Response to proposed ammendments.dotx

From: Mary Ellen Stone [mailto:mstone@kcsarc.org]
Sent: Sunday, April 28, 2019 9:39 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: response to proposed amendments CrR 3.7 et al

Please find my comments to these proposed amendments.

Thank you

Mary Ellen Stone

Mary Ellen Stone, M.S.
Executive Director | Pronouns: she/her
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) | kcsarc.org
D: 425.282.0354 | F: 425.282.0423 | E: mstone@kcsarc.org