

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: In support of the Washington Defender Association proposed changes to the rules of criminal procedure (Rules CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4).
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 1:09:37 PM

Rule comment 😊

From: rsnell2@comcast.net [mailto:rsnell2@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 1:07 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: In support of the Washington Defender Association proposed changes to the rules of criminal procedure (Rules CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4).

My name is Ronald Snell and I live in Kirkland, WA. I am not an attorney although I do have a background in court administration. I am also a member of the Social Justice Committee for Bellevue First Congregational Church. I believe that low-income people in my community and throughout Washington deserve the right to defend themselves when they are accused of a crime. Attending court can, and often is, a significant burden on people in my community with limited. They have limited resources to support themselves and their families. Attending court hearings requires them to do things that make their lives difficult. They must take time off work (if they can get it without jeopardizing their job), arrange for child care and transportation, all things that cost time and money and exacerbate often precarious financial circumstances. People should not have to choose between being responsible to their work and their families, answering criminal charges and defending their rights. The convictions that can result from failing to appear at court have devastating consequences such as job loss, increased financial hardship and deportation. I ask that you recognize the realities of our community by adopting the changes to the rules requiring people to attend court hearings that the Washington Defender Association has proposed. These changes would be a significant and much-needed step that will help so many people by ensuring they do not have to face these choices and suffer the consequences of having to attend, or being unable to attend, procedural or administrative court hearings that can be handled by their attorneys. I believe this is a just solution to an on-going problem that helps people without compromising the ability of the courts to see that justice is done.

Ronald Snell

Kirkland, WA