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**To:** [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: proposed changes to CrR 3.4  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 12:10:34 PM

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**From:** Christopher Swaby [mailto:swabylaw@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 12:02 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** proposed changes to CrR 3.4

Good morning

I write in support of the proposed changes to CrR 3.4. I have been practicing criminal defense for about 30 years, appearing in courts in DC, MD, VA and several WA counties. I've lost count of the number of times a client has been issued a bench warrant for missing a hearing for which their presence was not at all necessary. So so many of my clients have been hourly workers for whom every hearing means lost income. And sometimes those clients are waiting for hours for a hearing that will last mere minutes. Most hearings outside of arraignment, trial and sentencing are really more about the lawyers than they are about the defendant. Certainly if a defendant wants to appear and each and every hearing they can and should. For those who need to attend to other matters in their lives, we should be able to waive their appearance unless a court has found good reason to require their appearance.

Thank you

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