

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Suggested Changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 1:09:52 PM

From: Emily Fountain [mailto:emily.fountain@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 1:07 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Suggested Changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4

Dear Chief Justice and fellow Justices,

On behalf of the Snohomish County Affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, I am writing to express the Affiliate's support for the proposal to limit the number of in-person appearances by criminal defendants.

Requiring defendants to appear in person for all hearings has a disparate impact on persons living with mental health disabilities. Some individuals with mental illness have a hard time remembering dates and times, have transportation issues, work low-wage jobs with little flexibility or are otherwise prevented by their disability from functioning at the level required to attend in-person hearings. A person who is experiencing a mental health crisis, for example, cannot be expected to remember and attend a non-essential court hearing. Persons living with mental illness should not be expected to function the same way as persons not living with such disabilities.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness exists to advocate for and on behalf of persons living with mental illness. The Snohomish County Affiliate of NAMI is fully in support of the proposed rule changes regarding in-person court appearances.

Sincerely,

Emily Fountain
Board Member, Snohomish County Affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness