

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Requiring Persons to Appear in Court - Supporting WDA's Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:31:33 AM

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**From:** Irene Danysh [mailto:[iredanysh@gmail.com](mailto:iredanysh@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:27 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <[SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** Requiring Persons to Appear in Court - Supporting WDA's Comment

Dear members of the Supreme Court of WA State,

Community Visions serves the City of Burien as a grassroots organization advocating for equitable and inclusive policies in our city, which is at least 40% non-white. We have a large immigrant population, including an undocumented population, and we wish to protect our community.

Attending court can, and often is, a significant burden to residents of our city. 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. We 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. We 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.

Thank you for listening.  
Sincerely,  
Dr. Irene Danysh, Co-ordinator  
Community Visions