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Subject: FW: Proposed rule change to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4
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From: Jennifer Vickers Freeman [mailto:jennuinne@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:29 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Proposed rule change to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4

I am a public defender. I strongly support the proposed rule change. Often our clients come to court for the sole purpose of continuing their court dates, when we are in good contact with them and nothing meaningful happens in court. This means figuring out transportation (gas money, ride, bus), child care or bringing children to court, it may mean taking a day off of work, which for some clients is without pay or puts their jobs at risk. They often sit in court for hours, simply to have their court date reset. And, if they are unable to appear due to transportation issues, child care, work, or other issues, they face a warrant and the possibility of arrest, even in cases where all that would have happened is that their hearing would be reset and when they have been in regular contact with their attorneys. This impact is particularly significant for our indigent clients.

Jennifer Freeman
Public Defender, Pierce County