

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on proposal to limit the number of in court appearances CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:16:02 PM

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**From:** Kelly Canary [mailto:kcanary@snocopda.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 1:48 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Comments on proposal to limit the number of in court appearances CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4

Dear Chief Justice and fellow Justices,

As a long time public defender and as the misdemeanor supervisor at the Snohomish County Public Defenders Association, I write this comment in support of limiting the number of in-court appearances of persons charged with crimes.

Over the years I have been able to witness the impact of mandatory appearances on my clients. Many clients are not able to make it to court due to transportation issues. Snohomish County is a geographically large county with limited bus services in some of the outlying areas. Coming to court can be an all day affair and also creates an incentive for people to drive to court when their driving privileges might be suspended for a variety of reasons. Being stopped for DWLS 3 and driving without insurances creates a never ending cycle within the criminal justice system that prevents people from succeeding in life.

Furthermore, mandatory court appearances has a disparate impact on poor people and people of color. Many of the people I represent are hardworking individuals who are trying to raise families and get by on low wage jobs. Requiring someone to take a day off can and has resulted in the loss of a job and the loss of a days wages. When people live paycheck to paycheck, the loss of a days wages can have a severe impact on low income individuals.

Furthermore, the increased costs to the state by issuing warrants, filing bail jumping charges, costs of incarceration, warrant quash calendars would be mitigated by allowing criminal defendant to sign a waiver of appearance.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Kelly Canary  
WSBA # 39217