

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Change Rules for number of Times People are required to go to court
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:07:57 AM

From: Kitty Alaily [mailto:kalaily@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 2:13 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Change Rules for number of Times People are required to go to court

My name is Kitty Alaily and I am a resident of Bellevue, Washington in King County. I also live in Oconomowoc Wisconsin for part of the year with family.

I have experienced and have come to understand the difficulty that low-income people in any community have defending themselves when accused of a crime. Everyone has the right to defend themselves when accused of a crime. Attending court can and is often, a significant burden on people in my communities with limited resources of support. Attending court hearings requires them to do things that make their lives difficult. They must take time off of work (if they can even get it without jeopardizing their job), arrange for child care, transportation, all things that cost time and money and exacerbate often precarious financial circumstances.

People should not have to choose between being responsible for their work and 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. I ask that you recognize the realities of our community by adopting rule changes 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 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.

I 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 your attention.