

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: CrR 3.4 proposed change  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:27:43 PM

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**From:** Sobel, Susan (DPD) [mailto:[Susan.Sobel@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Susan.Sobel@kingcounty.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <[SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** CrR 3.4 proposed change

Good afternoon,

I am emailing to express my support for the proposed changes to CrR 3.4. I am a practicing Public Defender in Washington and I firmly believe that these proposed changes are a necessary change to create a more equitable system for our clients as they traverse the criminal legal system.

Fewer required physical appearances for clients will drastically reduce the collateral consequences that our clients suffer as a result of navigating the legal system. Many clients have to take off work and even end up losing their jobs because of the demands of appearing in court. Many clients suffer financially and emotionally when forced to decide if they bring their children to court or have to pay/arrange for childcare. There is transportation issues, concerns around bus fare, physical and mental disabilities, and different economic and emotional strains that result from having to come to court. Often times to simply to wait for hours to be told by the judge the case is continued, please come back next time.

The concerns raised by prosecutors and judges, in reviewing the public comments, seems to object to the proposed change because it will result in a strain to the system and that the hearings are necessary. I disagree and believe that in fact processing hearings such as continuances, without client's forced physical presence, will be more efficient. Attorneys will have to come to court already prepared and will not be spending time meeting with clients in a rushed or anxiety inducing situation prior to processing paperwork. It also shows a respect for our client's time to not force them to sit and wait, and it also allows attorneys to meet with clients in a more focused way. Both of these improvements may also help repair some of the distrust our clients have with this system.

There also seems to be an undertone fear that clients will lose face to face time with their attorneys or will not fully understand the process. This is particularly concerning and presumes that defense attorneys are not adequately doing their job, relaying their clients concerns to the court, or making themselves available. When in fact the opposite is true, less in person court hearings will allow for more client centered representation and include meetings or conversations scheduled around their clients actual availability.

This is an important and necessary proposed rule change. I ask the review body to support it.

Respectfully,

**Susy Sobel**

Attorney, King County Public Defender

WSBA # 52579