

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Support for Rules of Professional Conduct - RPC 4.4
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From: Bob Marsalli [mailto:BMarsalli@wacommunityhealth.org]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 4:15 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Support for Rules of Professional Conduct - RPC 4.4

Kind Reader –

The Washington Association for Community Health (the Association) supports the adoption of **RPC 4.4** which will protect the rights of immigrants in our state.

The Association represents Washington's 27 federally qualified community health centers which provide affordable primary medical, oral, and behavioral healthcare services and supports to over 1,000,000 low income Washingtonians. The adoption of *RPC 4.4* matters to Washington's community health centers and their patients because just as no one should fear accessing necessary, basic healthcare, so no one should fear that their immigration status prevents them from seeking justice, whether as a crime victim or otherwise. All individuals must have free and open access to Washington courts, regardless of their immigration status. Furthermore, we believe that community trust is a cornerstone of our judicial system. If an attorney is viewed as an extension of the federal immigration system, noncitizens are less likely to go to court to appear for their hearings, file for protection orders, or appear as witnesses, thereby undermining access to justice. Yet immigration arrests are causing people to miss court. Lawyers should not be facilitating these arrests.

The Association believes strongly that RPC 4.4 is necessary to maintain and promote access to justice for all Washingtonians, regardless of their immigration status.

Sincerely,

Bob A. Marsalli | Chief Executive Officer



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