

SAGE supports the passage of this rule which will protect the rights of immigrants in our state. This matters because no one should fear that their immigration status prevents them from seeking justice, whether as a crime victim or otherwise. All individuals have free and open access to Washington courts, regardless of their immigration status.

SAGE provides supportive services to survivors of violence and crime, regardless of their immigration status. SAGE supports all survivors and advocates for safety and freedom of violence through a variety of services, especially legal advocacy and maintaining a close relationship with each of our county court-systems. Therefore, it is vital for survivors of violence to obtain judicial services such as protection orders when experiencing crimes like domestic violence, harassment, stalking and sexual assault, despite their documentation status, to achieve safety from threat and violence.

If survivors are unable to obtain protection due to fear of deportation and arrest, they will only remain in unsafe situations. This includes all immigrant individuals, and immigrant families with children. As we have learned at SAGE, domestic violence relationships and experiences of sexual assault often escalate quickly from unsafe to lethal situations. From 1997 through 2009, 61 immigrant and refugee victims of domestic violence were killed by abusers in Washington State (Washington death certificates and Domestic Violence Fatality Review data). At least 34 victims had children living at the home and at least 4 had been pregnant within the year of their death. And in domestic violence homicides, women are six times more likely to be killed when there is a gun in the home (The National Coalition of Domestic Violence). Domestic violence and sexual assault impact all homes, families and individuals in our country therefore our state must make it safe for all survivors to access help, safety and judicial services.

Domestic violence and sexual assault are the most underreported crimes. Survivors rarely come forward to report the crimes due to a significant and likely fear they will not be believed. Therefore, by limiting safe access to the courts, we are deterring survivors of violence who are in dire need of protection from getting these crucial services. Protection orders, parenting plans, filing for divorce, and attending hearings play a significant part when supporting survivors of crime and violence. Therefore access to the justice system must be available for individuals to live safe and healthy lives. With the help of the justice system, immigrant individuals and families can achieve safety and protection. The justice system also assists survivors by connecting survivors with legal assistance, resources and options when documentation and immigration are barriers; giving survivors options and hope. By supporting the passage of this rule, we can continue to protect the rights of immigrants in our state. Like all people living in our country, regardless of documentation, we all have the right to be safe and live a life free of violence and abuse. Please help SAGE and the state of Washington shine as a leader in protecting the rights and dignity of all people.

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Support for Court Rules-General Rule 38 and Rules of Professional Conduct RPC 4.4 Commentary Amendment
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 4:37:12 PM
Attachments: [Support for Rules of Professional Conduct RPC 4.4 Commentary Amendment.docx](#)
[Support for Rules of Professional Conduct General Rule 38.docx](#)

From: Jessie Mclaughlin [<mailto:jessiem@findsafety.org>]
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 4:33 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: RE: Support for Court Rules-General Rule 38 and Rules of Professional Conduct RPC 4.4 Commentary Amendment

Yep! Apologies, it has been a long day. Here are the letters. Thank you!

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Jessie Mclaughlin <jessiem@findsafety.org>
Subject: RE: Support for Court Rules-General Rule 38 and Rules of Professional Conduct RPC 4.4 Commentary Amendment

Hi, was there an attachment?

From: Jessie Mclaughlin [<mailto:jessiem@findsafety.org>]
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 4:18 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Support for Court Rules-General Rule 38 and Rules of Professional Conduct RPC 4.4 Commentary Amendment

On behalf of SAGE in Wenatchee, WA.