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Subject: FW: Objection to Proposed Amendment to CR 71
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From: Paul Richmond [mailto:paul@paulrichmondlaw.com]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 1:35 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>; paul
<paul@paulrichmondlaw.com>
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I wish to note my opposition to the proposed amendment to Civil Rule 71 especially as it impacts the practice of family law.

Having recently gone to trial in an unfunded matter I can say it was one of the most disruptive periods my practice has ever encountered, interfered with my livelihood, and had a damaging impact I continue to feel.

This does not only create hardship for the practitioner, but then creates hardship for the client. In essence what this does is force the practitioner to obtain fees for full representation through trial if not at the start of the matter, then no later than 90 days before trial date. This would seem to put a huge hurdle for the majority of people who do not have huge marital estates but would benefit from the help of a lawyer.

As others have noted, protection against improper withdrawal already exist, including the requirement that we provide Notice first to the client,

For multiple reasons include its impact on Mediation, I can see this resulting in less

settlements and more trials, and urge the cCOurt not to adopt this Rule change. _____