

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Linford, Tera](#)  
**Cc:** [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: JuCR 6.17 comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 1:01:24 PM

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**From:** Karen Pillar [mailto:karenmpillar@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 12:55 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** JuCR 6.17 comment

I am writing to support the adoption of proposed Juvenile Court rule 7.16. The proposed court rule will ensure that youth are not incarcerated for behaviors like missing court or violating probation, unless the individual circumstances pose a serious threat to public safety. This rule will promote public health, advance racial justice, and reduce the harm of the juvenile legal system.

- **Adopting JuCR 7.16 will protect youth from the heightened risk of COVID-19 incarceration creates.**

COVID-19 has seriously sickened and killed many people, including the young. It disproportionately affects communities of color. Youth who are detained and risk exposure, will also be released and bring possible exposures to their homes, families and communities.

Adopting proposed JuCR 7.16 will ensure that youth cannot be jailed for a warrant unless a judge finds that incarceration is needed to protect against a serious threat to public safety. Enacting this proposed rule is an essential step towards safeguarding the well-being of our youth, their loved ones, and our community.

- **Adopting JuCR 7.16 will advance racial justice by reducing the harms of incarceration, which disproportionately impact Black youth, Indigenous youth, and Youth of Color.**

In Washington, we know that Black youth, Indigenous Youth and youth of color are disproportionately prosecuted and incarcerated in the juvenile legal system.

Because the harms of the juvenile legal system, including the issuance of warrants, disproportionately fall on Black youth, Indigenous youth and youth of color, clear limitations must be set for when an arrest warrant can be issued for a youth. Enacting this rule will advance the health and safety of all youth and especially youth of color.

- **Adopting this rule will shift how the juvenile legal system responds to youth who face incarceration providing community supports and services rather than jails and police officers.**

Statewide data shows that warrants are frequently issued because of violations of court orders and low-level misdemeanors. A 2018 study by *Washington's Juvenile Justice System Improvement Planning Grant* found that more than half of all incarcerated youth received either a technical violation. This rule should be adopted because a youth's family and community supports—rather than incarceration-- are best positioned to provide youth with safe and stable housing. If this rule is adopted, it will help shift our response to youth in the juvenile legal system from a punitive one of arrest and incarceration to a restorative one of

support and care.

Sincerely,

Karen Pillar  
WSBA #30150