



September 22, 2020

Chief Justice Debra L. Stephens  
Justice Charles W. Johnson  
Washington State Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 40929 Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Letter in Support of Adopting Proposed JuCR 7.16

Dear Chief Justice Stephens and Justice Johnson:

We are the Justice for Girls Coalition of Washington State, a nonprofit advocacy group dedicated to helping girls (female-identified and gender-expansive youth) in our state thrive. We know that girls\* who have experiences houselessness and homelessness are more at-risk for coming into contact with the juvenile court system, thus perpetuating the cycle of instability. In our experience working with girls in Washington, we have seen time and time again how detention and warrants have stopped youth from accessing the vital services they need to overcome barriers such as housing instability and unemployment.

These warrants can also impact their recovery and overall safety because young people are often fearful of how their circumstances will change. Youth are often fearful of attending court based on their experience of dealing with a system that has subjugated them their entire lives.

We know that keeping our young people and girls out of the system is more beneficial to their lives than involving them in the system. Meaning, warrants will NOT keep our youth safe. The unintended consequences are that young people who have court contact are more likely to continue the cycle of reoffending versus those who have not.

We also know that today's youth of color are more likely to experience homelessness and incarceration than their white peers, and detention only increases their likelihood of both future incarceration and homelessness.

For these and many more reasons our coalition **strongly urges you to adopt the proposed Juvenile Court Rule 7.16 – Governing Warrant Quashes**. By limiting the issuance of warrants unless individual circumstances pose a serious threat to public safety, the proposed court rule will positively impact unhoused youth by ensuring that fewer young people are incarcerated for behaviors like missing court or violating a court order.

We ask that you adopt JuCR 7.16 and help to protect our state's young people by providing



community support services and programs that adequately address their needs rather than relying on punitive measures that only perpetuate adversity.

Sincerely,

The Justice for Girls Coalition of Washington State

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Linford, Tera](#)  
**Cc:** [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter in Support of Adopting Proposed JuCR 7.16  
**Date:** Friday, September 25, 2020 8:19:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter in Support of JuCR 7.16.docx](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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**From:** Tristan Eddy [mailto:[teddy@jfgcoalition.org](mailto:teddy@jfgcoalition.org)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 10:16 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <[SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV)>  
**Cc:** Ann Muno <[amuno@jfgcoalition.org](mailto:amuno@jfgcoalition.org)>  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of Adopting Proposed JuCR 7.16

Dear Chief Justice Stephens and Justice Johnson:

Please see the attached letter in support of adopting the **proposed Juvenile Court Rule 7.16 – Governing Warrant Quashes**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Tristan Eddy**  
Program Coordinator  
*Pronouns: she / her / hers*  
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