



April 27, 2022

Supreme Court Rules Committee
Temple of Justice
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Support to Amend CrRLJ 7.6 Misdemeanor Probation Violations

Dear Supreme Court Rules Committee:

Civil Survival Project writes to express its support of the proposed changes to CrRLJ 7.6 put forth by the Washington Defender Association. The proposed amendments would protect probationers before and during revocation hearings by requiring courts to consider release and bail and allowing for the transfer of probation to a closer court, limiting disruption to the lives of many probationers. Based on our experience, both lived and as a reentry organization that supports its members, we believe the proposed changes would promote successful reentry by reducing the unnecessary burdens of probation that often disrupt housing, employment, and other sources of stability.

Civil Survival Project is a non-profit organization led by and for people who have been impacted by the criminal legal system. We advocate for justice system reform from a punishment paradigm to a system that supports individual and community health. Grounding reform in a public health framework, our mission is to achieve social and racial equity and community health through reform of the criminal legal system. As someone with criminal legal system involvement, I have experienced how these collateral consequences serve to reduce access to justice and prevent us from moving forward with our lives.

Requiring people accused of misdemeanor probation violations to physically attend scheduling hearings is burdensome and can lead to lost wages and costs for childcare and transportation. Some courts refuse to release people who have been arrested on alleged misdemeanor probation violations or to even set bail, making people wait weeks in jail for their probation hearings. Civil Survival Project members held in jail have lost jobs, public benefits, housing, and incarceration have jeopardized the custody of their children.

Accepting the proposal to allow one court of limited jurisdiction to transfer probation to another court closer to where a person lives, works, or attends school if the person requests and both courts agree would reduce the hardship most people face. Our members have been arrested for misdemeanors in areas far from where they live because they are traveling for work, family visits, or vacations. Traveling back to the area of conviction for probation appointments and hearings has interfered with their work, school, and childcare obligations. In our experience, both lived and in supporting our members, probation transfers are a crucial step in reducing barriers to successful reentry.



Ultimately, allowing a person more options for responding to misdemeanor probation violations significantly decreases the disruption to their lives, and increases their chances of successfully exiting the criminal legal system. Civil Survival Project is deeply invested in creating a criminal legal system that prevents recidivism by eliminating the barriers to reentry. The proposed changes to CrRLJ 7.6 are an important step in making that vision a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Kelly Olson', on a light blue rectangular background.

Kelly Olson
Policy Manager
Civil Survival Project

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: Support to Amend CrRLJ 7.6 Misdemeanor Probation Violations
Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 11:45:11 AM
Attachments: [CrRLJ 7.6 Comment \(Civil Survival Project\).pdf](#)

From: Kelly Olson [mailto:kelly.olson@civilsurvival.org]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 11:33 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Support to Amend CrRLJ 7.6 Misdemeanor Probation Violations

External Email Warning! This email has originated from outside of the Washington State Courts Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, **DO NOT DO SO!** Instead, report the incident.

Dear Supreme Court Rules Committee:

Please find the attached comments in support of the proposed changes to CrRLJ 7.6 put forth by the Washington Defender Association.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Kelly Olson
Pronouns: she, her
Policy Manager

PO Box 634
Port Orchard, WA 98366
kelly.olson@civilsurvival.org
www.civilsurvival.org