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**Subject:** FW: Comment in support of of proposed court rule CrRLJ-7.6 changes  
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**From:** Jamila Taylor [mailto:jamila.taylor@defender.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 30, 2022 9:47 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Cc:** Prachi Dave <prachi.dave@defender.org>  
**Subject:** Comment in support of of proposed court rule CrRLJ-7.6 changes

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The Public Defender Association supports the Washington Defender Association's proposed rule changes to CrRLJ-7.6 regarding misdemeanor probation. PDA advances social and racial equity and community health through reform of the criminal legal system. Grounding reform in a public health and safety framework, PDA develops new strategies and implements models that improve on conventional responses to crime and public order issues.

PDA's primary client population are individuals who are in the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program (LEAD). Most referrals are clients who have some entanglement with district or municipal courts, substance use and/or mental health challenges. Our clients are also engaging in community-based outreach services and treatment which may be disrupted by unnecessarily long jail sentences pending a probation violation hearing. We support the rule changes as a means to minimize the disruption of services. The success of our clients often depends on their ability to maintain stability; and to comply with complicated court orders, probation requirements and other mandates. Engaging in services can be a complicated daily venture for many of our clients. Often, the lack of coordination between systems makes it more difficult for our clients to successfully complete services in a timely manner. As the Court continues to incorporate therapeutic and alternative interventions, it can properly address the alleged violation at hearings by balancing how a defendant appears before it. To favor the least disruption to the individual may lead to better outcomes and earlier case resolution. In sum, we ask the Supreme Court to adopt WDA's proposed CrRLJ-7.6 regarding misdemeanor probation.

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