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To: <u>Linford, Tera</u>

Subject: FW: Opposing further changes to CrR 3.4 **Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 4:48:56 PM

From: McCoy, Adrienne [mailto:Adrienne.McCoy@kingcounty.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:45 PM

To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK < SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>

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As a trial lawyer in King County Superior Court who has been in trial throughout the pandemic, I have come to appreciate some of the innovations the court has made using zoom. I have also observed the inequities that zoom can create across our diverse community.

There are many hearings that can be conducted successfully by zoom or phone that are allowed under the current version of CrR 3.4 which was recently adopted. However, extending those situations is dangerous.

Defendants, victims, and witnesses should not be treated differently based on their access to acceptable internet resources: that is inequitable.

I am in a murder trial currently where the zoom link provided for remote viewing of the trial led to significant concerns about improper influence of witnesses or tainting of witness testimony. The court had to shut down the zoom link to preserve the defendant's right to a fair trial. The Court cannot control what happens when court proceedings are accessible by zoom. A public courtroom is under the control of the judge and only then can a judge preserve the defendant's fair trial.

Please do not amend CrR 3.4