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Subject: FW: Opposition to changes in CrR 3.4
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From: Burns, Aubony [mailto:aubony.burns@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 5:57 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Opposition to changes in CrR 3.4

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in **opposition to the proposed CrR 3.4** changes that permit Defendants to appear via Zoom for all hearings and stages in criminal case.

First, these proposed changes would have a devastating impact on communities of color and communities that are not English speaking (both for defendants and victims). This would further marginalize members of those communities within the court systems. This means essentially a step away from social justice, a step away from access to justice. It is a clear equity concern to permit those with access to high-speed internet, broadband, and computers to appear via Zoom from where ever they please and those who do not have those items to appear in person. This will have the greatest impact on communities of color, immigrants, and the poor.

This change also severely impacts community safety and especially safety of victims. A Defendant being violated or convicted and cannot be remanded if on Zoom. A Defendant could take screen shots or photos of jurors or witnesses, and tamper, harass or threaten online or in real life. The amount of trauma children and victims of violence are put through, or that they would have to repeat, due to conductivity issues is unconscionable.

Do not permit these changes.

Sincerely,

-Aubony Burns

Aubony Burns

Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Sexually Violent Predator Unit
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
516 3rd Avenue | Seattle, WA 98122
Desk: 206-477-6193