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Subject: FW: Opposition to changes in CrR 3.4
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:41:36 PM

From: Holroyd, Bella [mailto:iholroyd@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:37 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Opposition to changes in CrR 3.4

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Good afternoon,

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. This is fraught with dangerous problems including the loss of the ability to remand a defendant who has been found guilty, the potential for a mistrial if there are internet connectivity issues or power outages, and the opportunity for defendants to record and retain (or distribute) video testimony of vulnerable victims describing traumatic incidents.

Most importantly, this rule also presents huge social justice, access to justice, and equity concerns. It would permit those with access to high-speed internet, broadband, and computers to appear via Zoom from where ever they please, while requiring those who do not have those items to appear in person. An estimated 42 million Americans live beyond the reach of broadband service, and there can substantial barriers to learning how to use video conferencing technology, particularly for those who speak English as a second language, the elderly and the disabled. This proposed rule will have the greatest negative impact on BIPOC and immigrant communities, and those who are disenfranchised.

Do not permit these changes.

Sincerely,

Bella Holroyd (she/her)
DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, GENERAL CRIMES UNIT- Trial
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