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Subject: FW: Opposition to proposed CrR 3.4
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From: Anderson, Christopher (PAO) [mailto:chanderson@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 7:16 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Opposition to proposed 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.

As many of my colleagues have already indicated allowing remote appearance for defendants will only create further disparity in the access to justice for the most marginalized members of our community, who don't have access to high-speed internet. Remote hearings would be for English speakers only because defendant's that need interpreter services would be required to appear in person.

Remote hearings would severely diminish the integrity of the trial process. The judges would have no way of knowing if subpoenaed witnesses were viewing the proceedings, if the defendant was being coached off camera, or if the defendant was even viewing the proceedings since the court would be unable to see the defendants computer screen.

Defendant's that the court intended remand into custody for violations of conditions of release, probation violations or sentencing could decided remotely if they wanted voluntarily report to the jail after hearing the sanction or sentence in their case. Likely resulting in bench warrants, longer periods of incarceration, additional charges and hearings as a result of a defendant's failure to report to jail.

It would be particularly impactful for the safety of victims of domestic violence. In May of this year in Michigan District Court—a defendant was found to be in the victims apartment during a zoom court hearing, which resulted in his arrest and additional charges of obstruction of justice and violation of a domestic violence no contact order.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-us-canada-56341651>

Please do not permit these proposed changes to CrR 3.4

Sincerely,

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