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Subject: FW: Opposition to proposed CrR 3.4 changes
Date: Friday, October 1, 2021 11:25:29 AM

From: Fyall, Chris [mailto:Chris.Fyall@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 5:45 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Opposition to proposed CrR 3.4 changes

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I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to CrR 3.4.

I write to echo the comments of Hugo Torres, Yessenia Manzo, and others regarding the discriminatory impact of the proposed change. I also want to highlight the comment of Jim Whisman regarding the systemic inefficiency of discouraging a defendant's presence.

I also want to add a related observation from my experience: One of my duties is covering pretrial hearings where many out-of-custody defendants waive speedy trial for negotiation or investigation reasons. In theory, under the recently adopted changes to CrR 3.4, the courtroom in which I practice could be empty of defendants. In fact, defendants who lack reliable phone/email or interpreter access, but who are actively involved in their cases/defense, will attend court in person. As a result, our most disadvantaged defendants physically attend court hearings that richer and more privileged defendants can skip.

For these reasons, please reject the proposed change. Thank you,

Christopher Fyall (he/him)
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office