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Subject: FW: Proposed changes to CrR 3.4
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From: Sergis, Charles [mailto:Charles.Sergis@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 9:14 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Proposed changes to CrR 3.4

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Good Morning,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed change to CrR 3.4. On the whole, they are unnecessary, and detrimental to both the appearance of fairness and actual fairness of our criminal justice system, not to mention all of the logistical and procedural nightmares they would cause. Just a few thoughts on two particular sections:

CrR 3.4 (e) (1)- Allowing out of custody defendants to appear remotely and placing the onus on them to have proper equipment to connect to such proceeding. This is a disadvantage to defendant's who have limited means and who would have to rely upon internet in public places, which is prohibited by the proposed rule change. This will result in inequitable treatment of defendants.

CrR 3.4 (e) (2)- Allowing defendants to appear remotely for all hearings, including trial. This rule would essentially allow defendants to not appear in court while simultaneously requiring victims of crimes, including child victims of sexual assault, to appear in person. This disparate treatment is wholly unfair and runs afoul of the spirit of the Victim's Bill of Rights codified in RCWs 7.68, 7.69, 7.69A and 7.69B.

Thank you for your time.

Chuck Sergis
Sr. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney