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To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: Critical proposed amendments to CrR 3.4
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From: LeSesne, Owen [mailto:olesesne@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:18 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Critical proposed amendments to CrR 3.4

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Good Afternoon,

Please find my comments to this proposed amendment:

“Allowing defendants to avoid any physical appearance would be a detriment to the administration of justice and ensuring that the court could hold them accountable should/when they violate the terms of court orders. It’s already hard enough getting defendants into court to answer for violations of their conditions of release. It’s even harder when trying to move their case can move forward past their 10th pre-trial (which has happened a lot give COVID). COVID has been a challenge, but it shouldn’t tie the hands of the courts and the State to uphold the law.

Not to mention, it is incredibly unfair to allow Defendants to not show up when we have troopers and other LEOs that have to be in the courtroom for motions and trials. Some of these troopers drive hours to get to court and have to be paid overtime on limited budgets only to be told (at a majority of the hearings I’ve been in) that the defendant hasn’t shown up. The courts have been extremely reluctant in allowing LEOs to appear via Zoom as it go towards a defendant’s confrontation rights. But if defendants can avoid physical appearances, then at the very least, officers should also not be forced to come into the court.”

Thank you for allowing me to submit this comment. I wish you a great day.

E. Owen LeSesne

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