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**Subject:** FW: Opposition to changes in CrR 3.4  
**Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 4:48:52 PM

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**From:** Ritchie, Jennifer [mailto:Jennifer.Ritchie@kingcounty.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:45 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Opposition to changes in 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 cases. This process creates great disparities for communities that do not have access to electronic devices, high speed internet, and the privacy necessary for court hearings, including those hearings dealing with protection orders, sexual assault and domestic violence cases, and those risking possible dependency issues based on the criminal case. In addition, many women, especially single mothers, lack the resources necessary to provide child care or otherwise keep their children occupied and supervised while they are on a Zoom call or in a Zoom hearing/trial (see the recent Gender Bias Report by the WA State Supreme Court). In addition, these families risk exposing their children and their financial circumstances through Zoom. It opens defendants to a possible further invasion of privacy when anyone wishing to watch a hearing or trial can see into the home or surroundings of individuals. This will have the greatest impact on marginalized communities. As a prosecutor, we are responsible to EVERY person involved in the system, and we are well aware of the disparity between those with resources and those without.

As a member of the Supreme Court Commission on Gender and Justice, I highly object to these changes and the disproportionate (and unintended) effect they will certainly have on women.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Ritchie

Jennifer G. Ritchie  
Chair, Sexually Violent Predator Unit  
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

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