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From: Harmon, Laura [mailto:lharm@kingcounty.gov]
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Subject: Comment to CrR 3.4

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to encourage the Court not to adopt the proposed amendment to CrR 3.4 as written. There are substantial equitable problems with only allowing individuals who have access to a device and/or the internet to appear remotely. Furthermore, allowing remote participation in all proceedings goes beyond what the Courts adopted during the CVOID-19 pandemic. Moreover, it seems to run afoul of all common sense and sense of justice that defendants be allowed to remotely appear to hearings at their convenience by victims, witnesses, jurors, whether out of state or local, must go to great lengths to be physically present at court hearings. Surely, a defendant will not have the same opportunity to observe, understand, and participate in his court proceedings from a device screen. Furthermore, it will cause logistical issues with an attorney's ability to confer with their clients during court proceedings which is critically important to their understanding of the process as well as their ability to direct and communicate their wishes to their attorney. To be frank, the list of issues presented by this amendment is expansive.

Although I understand the intent of the rule, the manner in which it is drafted is simply incompatible with the daily logistics of criminal practice and will only further complicate the already difficult jobs of the criminal justice system.

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