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**Subject:** FW: Comment on proposed changes to CrR 3.4  
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**From:** Erickson-Mills, Sarah [mailto:Sarah.Erickson-Mills@kingcounty.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 1, 2021 12:00 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Comment on proposed changes to CrR 3.4

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The proposed changes to CrR 3.4 would be detrimental. Not only would the day to day logistical considerations of the administration of justice become chaotic and inequitable, the proposed changes would, in effect, render meaningless the basic Constitutional rights I've sworn to uphold. Throughout the pandemic, I was in court at least once a week both before, during, and immediately after defendant's were allowed to appear through counsel. It was difficult enough to ensure defendant's rights for hearings administrative in nature. Remote appearance would create a barrier to prosecutors, defense attorneys, and the court evaluating whether a defendant truly understands the process, has adequate access to counsel, and voluntariness of statements.

As a prosecutor, I can't imagine telling a survivor of domestic violence, or a member of the community, that they must appear in person but the defendant isn't required. As proposed, these changes devalue survivor's experience in the process.

Sarah Erickson-Mills

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