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**Subject:** FW: Please don't require more court appearances  
**Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022 4:09:11 PM

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**From:** Jane Hammerstrom [mailto:janeboman@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2022 3:22 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Please don't require more court appearances

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Good afternoon,

I write to request that you reject the proposed reforms related to when people must be present in court.

It does not make sense for defense attorneys to notify clients of new court dates, because if they fail to succeed, they cannot notify the court without violating confidentiality. And it creates a conflict of interest for defenders to bear that responsibility.

The rule should presume a defendant is *not* required to appear without an affirmative showing it is particularly necessary to advance that case.

The rule should not authorize judges to issue warrants unless the defendant's appearance was necessary to move the case forward.

Requiring additional appearances disproportionately disadvantages poor defendants and persons of color. People without the benefit of childcare, transportation, paid time-off, etc. suffer when they are required to appear for unnecessary hearings.

I am a felony defense attorney and the current rules are working. Please do not require people to appear for every hearing. It is terribly unfair and serves no purpose.

Jane