

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Feedback related to JuCR 7.16  
**Date:** Monday, April 17, 2023 8:20:50 AM

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**From:** Meidl, Craig <cmeidl@spokanepolice.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 4:33 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Feedback related to JuCR 7.16

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Dear Washington State Supreme Court Clerk Erin L. Lennon,

I am writing to request that Juvenile Court Rule 7.16 be **repealed**, and discretion and authority for the issuance of juvenile warrants be returned to our Superior Court Judges. While this rule may have been well-intended at the time of the COVID outbreak, continuing down this path is leading to unsafe communities and inability to protect juveniles or hold them accountable when they commit crimes against others.

The rule substantively restricts a trial judge's statutory authority. On this basis it should be **rescinded**.

JuCR 7.16 prohibits a judge from issuing a warrant for the arrest of a juvenile who has violated a judge's order to appear or to comply with conditions of release, except under specific circumstances showing serious threat to the public. Superior Court judges, however, have broader authority. By statute, a judge may take juvenile offenders into custody and detain them with probable cause when a juvenile has violated terms of a disposition order, **and**

- is unlikely to appear for further proceedings, **or**
- to protect the juvenile from him or herself, **or**
- is a threat to public safety.

As we see juvenile crime increasing in Spokane, especially crimes of violence, we need to allow judges the ability to use their discretion, based on all the facts of the case, to determine what is in the best interests of the community and juvenile.

Respectfully,  
Craig



**Craig Meidl** | Spokane Police Department | Chief of Police  
509.625.4063 | [cmeidl@spokanepolice.org](mailto:cmeidl@spokanepolice.org)