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**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment for proposed amendments to Juvenile Court Rule 7.16  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 10:31:02 AM

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**From:** Johnson, Cheryl <Cheryl.Johnson@co.snohomish.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 10:15 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Cc:** DeJong, Jennifer <Jennifer.DeJong@co.snohomish.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Comment for proposed amendments to Juvenile Court Rule 7.16

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Good morning,

Jennifer DeJong and I are co-Leads of the Juvenile Court Unit for the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. We join in the request made by the Superior Court Judges' Association and the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators to rescind JuCr 7.16 or, in the alternative, to amend it as requested.

Far from improving outcomes for offenders in the Juvenile Justice system, JuCr 7.16 has had a number of adverse impacts on offenders. We have had cases where youth are extreme dangers to themselves due to being trafficked, drug use, or mental health concerns. Under the current rule, there is no mechanism for intervention and treatment should the youth not appear for court.

More concerning is the fact that when a youth fails to appear until they turn 18, cases that should have been handled in Juvenile Court are now being filed as adult cases. This include felonies and crimes against persons. The youth loses the opportunity for rehabilitative services offered by the Court, and more importantly the ability to seal adjudications at age 18. There have been multiple cases in my jurisdiction where we have had to send felonies to adult court.

Prior to JuCr 7.16, our county had developed a two-tier warrant system where the majority of our warrants were field contacts where the youth was given a court date without being brought to detention.

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