

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
COUNTY OF KITTITAS  
JUVENILE COURT DIVISION

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES  
SCOTT R. SPARKS  
L. CANDACE HOOPER



JUVENILE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
KATRINA D. MANKUS

205 W 5<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, STE. 211, ELLENSBURG, WA 98926  
509-962-7516 FAX 509-962-7667

April 17, 2023

Erin L. Lennon  
Washington State Supreme Court Clerk

Regarding: Comments for JuCR 7.16 – Quashing and Issuing Warrants

As a member of the Washington State Juvenile Court Administrators Association (WAJCA) and as a community member, I urge the Washington State Supreme Court to rescind JuCR 7.16 Quashing and Issuing Warrants. JuCR 7.16 negatively impacts our youth, families, and communities and restricts the courts' authority to issue warrants pursuant to RCW 13.40.040 and to enforce its orders.

JuCR 7.16 prohibits a court from authorizing a warrant for youthful offenders unless a finding is made that the circumstances of the alleged violation of a court order poses a serious threat to public safety, completely disregarding the safety and welfare of youthful offenders. It is imperative that we do not give up on youthful offenders who may not pose a serious threat to public safety, but whose individual safety and wellbeing is at risk.

Fortunately, as a juvenile court administrator in a smaller county few warrants are issued for failure to appear or comply. Juvenile probation counselors (JPC) and defense attorneys work closely with youth and families to ensure appearance at court. JPCs can provide transportation, paper service, and reminders for court. However, there are times that have nothing to do with transportation, failed service, and scheduling conflicts when youth fail to appear for court. It is these circumstances that courts must maintain the authority to issue warrants to ensure both public and individual safety.

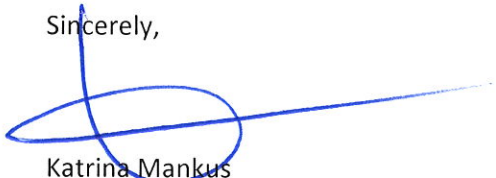
I share with you a story of a youth who absconded from supervision in another county and did not meet the criteria for a warrant under JuCR 7.16. After several months with whereabouts unknown the youth was arrested for a felony offense. The youth was an unlicensed driver traveling more than 100+ MPH with several passengers in the vehicle. The juvenile was arrested and detained for a short-term. Upon release, the youth engaged with probation, successfully resided in approved placement, continued with their education, completed employment and education training, and engaged with community-based services. The youth successfully completed the deferred and charges dismissed.

We have unfortunately quashed a warrant for a youth who passed away from a drug overdose while being homeless in another county. We have quashed a warrant for a youth who reported being a victim of a sexual assault while on runaway status. It is not to say tragedy does not occur with warrants, but these stories, among others, highlight the dangers youth face when they are on the run. Short-term detention with court involvement that coordinates services to support youth and families must remain a means for youth who are a risk to themselves and the community and have absconded. We cannot continue to fail parents who have no other mechanism to ensure their child is returned home safe.

It is my belief that JuCR 7.16 undermines and disregards the intent of the Juvenile Justice Act (JJA) and the fundamental authority granted to the courts by the Legislature. RCW 13.40.010(2) reads, "it is the further intent of the legislature that youth, in turn, be held accountable for their offenses and that communities, families, and the juvenile courts carry out their functions consistent with this intent." The statute further asserts the purpose of the JJA includes protecting citizens, ensuring public safety, providing for rehabilitation and reintegration, and providing necessary treatment, supervision, and custody for juvenile offenders.

Preventing courts from the ability to issue warrants for youth who have absconded and who pose a risk to themselves is not compassionate. Our kids, our families, and our communities deserve better. I respectfully urge the Washington State Supreme Court to rescind JuCR 7.16.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Katrina Mankus  
Juvenile Court Administrator  
Kittitas County Juvenile Court Services

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments regarding JuCR 7.16 - Quashing and Issuing Warrants  
**Date:** Monday, April 17, 2023 11:24:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [Comments - JuCR 7.16.pdf](#)

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**From:** Katrina Mankus <Katrina.Mankus@co.kittitas.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 11:11 AM  
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**Subject:** Comments regarding JuCR 7.16 - Quashing and Issuing Warrants

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Good Morning Erin L. Lennon,

I have attached a letter for proposed changes to JuCR 7.16.

Thank you,

Katrina Mankus, Administrator  
Juvenile Court Services  
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