

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment on Proposal to Rescind JuCR 7.16
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 11:58:15 AM

From: Kelly Ryan <kryan@co.asotin.wa.us>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 11:57 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Cc: WAJCA@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV
Subject: Public Comment on Proposal to Rescind JuCR 7.16

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Erin L. Lennon, Washington State Supreme Court Clerk

Honorable Chief Justice Gonzalez and Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court,

As a member of the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators, I write today in support of the SCJA and WAJCA's joint proposal to modify or rescind Juvenile Court Rule 7.16, returning discretion and authority for the issuance of juvenile warrants 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 an inability to protect juveniles or hold them accountable when they commit crimes against others. The SCJA and WAJCA have worked hard to provide the proposed changes to JuCR 7.16, and we are willing to come to the table for future discussions with those parties who also work in the interest of youth.

As the face of the juvenile justice system in two counties, I have been met with comments from parents who voice concern for their children who are running away, failing to attend school and counseling appointments, committing crimes, and continuing to use substances while on probation. They want to know what it will take for us (the court) to hold the youth accountable. Even more concerning, I also hear from

witnesses and victims of all ages who have requested and received protection orders, but still fear retaliation. They feel completely unheard and disregarded by the system established to protect them.

Respectfully, what can I tell them? I am at a loss.

I have worked in the juvenile court system in various counties over the past 32 years. While I sincerely believe we serve to help young people overcome past errors and find success in life, the recent movement to prioritize offenders over victims concerns me for the safety of our communities.

By current 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, is unlikely to appear for further proceedings, or to protect the juvenile from themselves, or is a threat to public safety. I have trust that concerns regarding the welfare of youth in the justice system would be better addressed by the legislature through modification of the relevant statutes.

Thank you for listening and contemplating this important topic,

KC Ryan

*Kelly C. Ryan
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