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Subject: FW: Comment on JuCR 7.16
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From: William Trondsen <william.trondsen@co.thurston.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 11:12 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment on JuCR 7.16

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Good morning,

I am writing in opposition to the suggested rescinding of or proposed amendments to JuCR 7.16. As a defense attorney that has practiced in both Eastern and Western Washington, I have seen firsthand the consequences of youth being in-custody for status offenses. When warrants previously could be issued for any violation of a court order, regardless of threat to public safety, it was not uncommon to see warrants requested for missing partial school days, being gone from home for less than a few hours, or missing appointments with treatment/probation.

Detention needs to be reserved for serious threats to public safety. The proposed inclusion of individual safety opens the door to warrants being issued as before the adoption JuCR 7.16. Normalizing incarceration for minor deviations of conditions of release or sentence is not an appropriate response to the unique needs of the youth that appear before our juvenile courts. For those youth that suffer from mental health or chemical dependency concerns, detention often acts as a barrier to the youth successfully continuing in treatment programs as many are not able to meet with their treatment team while in detention. Time in detention increases recidivism rates and is traumatic for each youth that experiences it. Also, a portion of people impacted by this change will be those who are still in the juvenile system after the age of 18. If a warrant is issued for them, they will be held in adult jail, emphasizing again the need for detention/warrants to be reserved for only serious threats to public safety. As currently written, JuCR 7.16 requires all members in the juvenile justice system to work on building relationships with the youth and families in juvenile courts, without resorting immediately to a warrant.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William Trondsen (he/him)

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