



April 18, 2023

Justices of the Washington Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 40929  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0929  
VIA E-MAIL: supreme@courts.wa.gov

RE: Proposed New Rules CrR 4.11 and CrRLJ 4.11

Dear Justices:

WDA asks you to adopt proposed new rules CrR 4.11 and CrRLJ 4.11 with an alteration that would allow electronic service of notice of hearings.

The new rules would continue positive changes that started when the Court's modifications to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4 became effective in early in 2021. Those rules allow for people charged with crimes to appear through counsel or remotely for routine hearings. It can be difficult or impossible for people to get to court for frequent hearings. Reasons include lack of reliable transportation, jobs that don't allow absences and obligations to care for children or elderly family members. Multiple trips to court can also interrupt school or counseling and treatment.

Allowing people to appear through counsel or remotely decreases bench warrants. Arrests on bench warrants interrupt work, school and treatment and harm people charged with crimes and their families. Further, people arrested on bench warrants who are unable to post bail often plead guilty to get out of jail instead of being able to assert their constitutional rights. The proposed new rules would reduce warrants for missed ministerial hearings while avoiding any ethical issues for defense counsel when counsel was responsible for providing new court dates to their client.

Allowing electronic notice to people charged with crimes would be cost effective and help courts reach people without a steady address.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magda Baker', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Magda Baker, WSBA #30655  
Misdemeanor Resource Attorney

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: comment in favor of proposed court rules CrR 4.11 and CrRLJ 4.11  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 10:01:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[04.18.23\\_WDA comment CrR 4.11 and CrRLJ 4.11.pdf](#)

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**From:** Magda Baker <Magda@defensenet.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** comment in favor of proposed court rules CrR 4.11 and CrRLJ 4.11

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Please see attached court rule comment in support of proposed CrR 4.11 and CrRLJ 4.11.

Thank you for your time and attention.

**Magda Baker**  
Misdemeanor Resource Attorney  
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