

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: Support for Proposed IRLJ Rules Changes
Date: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 3:08:28 PM

From: Starck Follis [mailto:SFollis@co.whatcom.wa.us]
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 1:20 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Support for Proposed IRLJ Rules Changes

External Email Warning! This email has originated from outside of the Washington State Courts Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, **DO NOT DO SO!** Instead, report the incident.

I support the proposed IRLJ Rules Changes concerning Drivers Licensing for the following reasons:

Allowing people to stay licensed allows them to stay insured and continue getting to work and taking care of family.

People who cannot pay a traffic ticket are no less safe than other drivers who get traffic tickets and can pay for them. Suspending their licenses does nothing for traffic safety.

BIPOC are disparately cited for traffic infractions. This is an issue of race equity.

To make the new legislation apply fairly, uniformly and in a way that serves Washington residents, courts should have guidance about how to decide if a person cannot pay a traffic ticket and what is a realistic payment plan.

Using GR 34 to determine if a person can pay and limiting to monthly payments of \$10 provides that guidance.

Court processes can be confusing and time-consuming to figure out. Courts are well situated to give information to drivers about how to get on a payment plan. Busy drivers should not have to search for that information.

Attendance at hearings can be difficult to impossible for people with jobs, school, or childcare responsibilities.

Limiting hearings and allowing remote appearances would help.

People may need time to gather resources before addressing a traffic ticket. The 90-day grace period would help people without immediate access to extra money.

Often people do not respond to a traffic ticket because of multiple competing time demands and

because the process and potential fine are daunting. An automatic requirement that a person who does not respond to a traffic ticket has to pay the whole fine at once is unfair and punishes people with the most limited resources

Starck Follis

Director

Whatcom County Public Defender