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To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Comment re: Proposed RAP 18.25
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:02:52 AM

From: Jill Reuter <Jill.Reuter@co.yakima.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:01 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment re: Proposed RAP 18.25

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Clerk of the Court:

I am writing to respectfully request this Court adopt the new proposed RAP 18.25, concerning the use of initials for minors, and initials for victims and alleged victims of specified offenses.

The number one reason for adopting this proposal is the fact that appellate documents are publicly available online, via internet search engines, briefs available on the Washington Court website, and via the Appellate Court Public Document Portal. Minors involved in criminal proceedings or civil commitment actions pursuant to chapter 71.09 RCW should not be subjected to having their name memorialized forever on the internet. I feel strongly about this as both an appellate attorney and as a parent of minor children.

The defendant's right to confront will be protected in the Superior Court, where the minor will be identified by name in open court. When it comes to appellate court filings, the privacy of the minor (as well as victims of the specified offenses, namely sex offenses), should prevail, given the wide reach of the online world. In my opinion, we should encourage, not chill, minors and victims of sex offenses to come forward. This proposed rule will aid in that pursuit.

Finally, as the proponent of the rule states, there is not uniformity between the divisions of the Court of Appeals on this topic. The proposed rule will bring uniformity between the divisions, as well as in this Court, as to how practitioners must refer to the identified individuals in their appellate filings.

Please consider adopting RAP 18.25. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jill Reuter

Jill S. Reuter
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Appellate Division
Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
PO Box 30271
Spokane, WA 99223
(509) 986-0608
Jill.Reuter@co.yakima.wa.us