

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: CrR CRLJ 3.2
Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:30:09 AM

From: Megan Allen <mallen@kcsarc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 7:15 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: CrR CRLJ 3.2

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.

Hello, ‘

I am writing in opposition to the amendment CrR 3.2 and CrRLJ 3.2

This proposed amendment will silence victims. As an advocate for sexual assault victims for almost 25yrs, I have witnessed the fear that victims experience after they report the assault. With so few victims of sexual assault or domestic violence reporting, we must recognize the leap of faith the victims who do report take. Their risk is in trusting the system will consider their fundamental right to protection. Victims should be able to expect the system to act in fairness and provide equal consideration to their rights and to ensure that speaking out does not result in further harm or worse. Unfortunately, we know all too well of the cases in which ‘community bail funds’ have recklessly funded the bail of defendants who have then gone on to commit new crimes, create more victims and in some cases murdered the victims who did speak out.

This proposal does not instill further trust in a system as the proposal lacks transparency or fairness for victims. A bail system that allows a defendant to merely post 10% of the bail, does not communicate to victims or the community any consideration for safety. It essentially makes the process meaningless. Defendants accused of violent crime, and more specifically interpersonal crimes such as sexual assault and domestic violence are particularly skillful at silencing their victims. As these victims carry the scars and trauma that is life altering and long lasting and, the risk victims take to participate in the legal process is profound and should not be minimized. For a victim to take that risk, and then believe that the defendant will be held on a bail amount that might provide some sort of incentive the defendant follows court conditions or prevent them from fleeing; only to find out that it is not what it seems, is devastating. This proposal sets up a system that will be deceptive and dismissive of the seriousness of many crimes.

This amendment will deter victims from reporting crimes or willingly participating in criminal cases. This proposal lacks transparency, or fairness for victims and the public. If this is adopted it will send a clear message to victims their voice does not matter and participating in the criminal justice system is dangerous.

Sincerely,

Megan Allen

Megan Allen

Director of Advocacy Services | Pronouns: she/her

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) | kcsarc.org

D: [425.282.0359](tel:425.282.0359) | F: [425.282.0919](tel:425.282.0919) | O: [425.226.5062](tel:425.226.5062) | E: mallen@kcsarc.org

24-Hour Resource Line: 888.99.VOICE (86423)

Confidentiality Note: The information contained in this email message constitutes legally privileged and confidential information, intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copy of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by telephone (425) 226-5062, fax (425) 235-7422, or reply to the sender. Then delete this message. Thank you.