

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed amendment to CrR 4.7 and CrRLJ 4.7  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:09:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Longen, Tara <Tara.Longen@kingcounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 4:38 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Proposed amendment to CrR 4.7 and CrRLJ 4.7

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Good afternoon,

I'm writing to OPPOSE amending criminal discovery rules to permit defense counsel to provide discovery to defendants without appropriate redactions. In my experience discovery is redacted for the safety and security of victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses. The importance of protecting their welfare is evident in the high standard of our redaction guidelines. In a system that is already unkind to victims, protecting their personal information is one of few tangible safeguards we can offer on their criminal justice journey. Yet this proposal is calling for less review, less oversight, less consistency, less record-keeping, and a dubious lack of courtesy copies. I have several concerns.

- Defense counsel cannot prioritize victims, survivors, or witnesses unless they put their clients second. That's not going to happen.
- The actual task of redacting discovery is a strain on human eyes. Mistakes and omissions are common on both sides and a lesser standard of review does not suit the task.
- Redaction standards that bend and shift between jurisdictions will result in a piecemeal, chaotic, Dobbs-v.-Jackson kind of situation, only here there is no meaningful way to monitor compliance.

Washington State has a Crime Victim Bill of Rights which deems that reasonable efforts be made to ensure victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses "receive protection from harm and threats of harm arising out of cooperation with law enforcement and prosecution efforts". This contrary proposal is unreasonable. Victim/witnesses also have the right "to be provided information as to the level of protection available". The level of protection being proposed here is not sufficient. Believe they will ask and it will matter. Please reject the proposed amendments to CrR 4.7/CrRLJ 4.7.

Sincerely,  
Tara Longen



Tara Longen (she/her)

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