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**From:** Tiffany Mecca <tmecca@snocopda.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 8:03 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** CrR 4.7 and CrRLJ 4.7

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I have been a public defender for almost 15 years in Snohomish County. I have seen first-hand the importance of timely providing discovery to people accused of crimes.

The current rule, which necessitates defense counsel to seek permission from the prosecutor or involve the court to provide a copy of discovery to a client, is riddled with inefficiencies and inequities. It's a system that allows opposing counsel to decide what should be redacted, a practice that can lead to further injustices. Setting a hearing to do the same is inefficient and a waste of court time and resources. Establishing clear and neutral rules governing this practice is not just a matter of efficiency but also a matter of ensuring equitable legal representation and efficient disclosure of necessary information to people accused of crimes.

Discovery is not just a procedural safeguard but a crucial one that protects against wrongful imprisonment. Early access to discovery, putting a copy of it in the Accused's hand as soon as possible, is essential. It allows the Accused to be fully informed about what is being used against them and how, to gather information of their innocence, to have better-informed conversations earlier in their case, and to make an informed decision on how to proceed, e.g. whether to plead, evaluate the prospect of a trial, adequately prepare for trial. This early access is not just a matter of efficiency but a matter of justice.

Thank you,  
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