



April 7, 2025

Clerk of the Supreme Court

P.O. Box 40929

Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RE: Proposed Amendments to CR 12– WSAJ’s Letter in Support

Dear Clerk of the Supreme Court:

The Washington State Association for Justice (“WSAJ”) has over 2,200 attorney members who represent thousands of citizens in civil matters. WSAJ respectfully submits this additional comment in support of the adoption of Order 25700-A-1617.

WSAJ strongly supports the proposed amendment to CR 12 to address the systemic barriers that prevent incarcerated parents from meaningfully participating in family law proceedings. The inability to access court forms, legal resources, and legal assistance within the current 20-day response deadline leads to default judgments that can have devastating and long-term consequences for families.

Incarcerated parents deserve a fair opportunity to present their cases, and courts need full and accurate information to make just decisions in the best interests of children. The current procedural obstacles disproportionately harm already marginalized communities and perpetuate cycles of family separation and instability. Ensuring equitable access to justice requires reforming rigid deadlines that fail to account for the realities of incarceration. Incarceration should not be a barrier to accessing the civil justice system.

This rule change is a critical step toward fairness, procedural due process, and access to justice for all Washington families. We urge its adoption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Hanley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elizabeth Hanley

WSAJ President

**From:** [Leah Griffin](#)  
**To:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**Cc:** [Sara Crumb](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on order 25700-A-1617  
**Date:** Monday, April 7, 2025 1:58:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [2025.4.7 WSAJ Comments re 25700-A-1617.pdf](#)

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Dear Clerk of the Supreme Court,  
Please accept this comment in support of order 25700-A-1617 on behalf of the Washington State Association of Justice.

**Leah Griffin**

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