



Infinite Compassion.
Committed Representation.

INFINITUM LEGAL COUNSEL, P.S.

A Non-Profit Professional Services Corporation

April 30, 2025

Washington State Supreme Court
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA. 98504-0929

RE: Support for Proposed Changes to CrR 3.1/CrRLJ 3.1/JuCR 9.2 –
Standards for Indigent Defense (Family Defense Cases)

Dear Honorable Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court,

On behalf of Infinitem Legal Counsel, PS, a non-profit public defense firm dedicated to representing parents and children in dependency proceedings, we write in strong support of the proposed changes to CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, and JuCR 9.2.

The current caseload standards are not working. Since this firm was founded in 2016, we have seen many of highly respected colleagues, including one of our founding partners, leave family defense practice due to untenable caseloads, secondary trauma, and the emotional toll this work has had on their health and wellbeing.

In the years since the COVID-19 pandemic, this work has become even *more* complex, demanding and overwhelming for defenders. Issues like mental health, poverty, domestic violence, and the ongoing fentanyl crisis have ravaged families and communities. The legal landscape of dependency practice has shifted in response to these issues with new laws like HB 1227, which have led to increased pre-trial advocacy and litigation. Unfortunately, under the current caseload standards, family defenders are asked to do the impossible.

Given the current budget constraints, we understand concerns regarding difficulty implementing the standards. However, the cost of not implementing them will be much higher with continued burnout and attorney turnover. The families we serve will suffer.

Family defense practice is in crisis. All of us strive to provide the attention and advocacy needed to the parents and children we represent, but defenders need the support, supervision, and reasonable caseloads to make it work. These proposed standards are critical to making this work sustainable.

Thus, we urge the Court to adopt these proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Cameron E. Buhl
Executive Director/Managing Attorney

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Good evening,
Please see attached for our official comments in Support of Proposed Changes to CrR 3.1/CrRLJ 3.1/JuCR 9.2 – Standards for Indigent Defense (Family Defense Cases).

Very truly yours,

Cameron E. Buhl ([he](#)/[him](#)/[his](#))
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