

KING COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



LEESA MANION (she/her)
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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April 30, 2025

Honorable Mary Yu
Supreme Court Rules Committee
c/o Clerk of the Supreme Court

RE: Comments on Proposed Amendments to CrR 4.1 and CrRLJ 4.1

Dear Honorable Justice Mary Yu and Members of the Rules Committee:

I have no objection to the proposed change to CrR 4.1 and CrRLJ 4.1 that authorizes defendants to argue bail and other conditions of release at arraignment. However, I strongly urge the court not to adopt the proposed change that requires arraignment to occur within three days of filing an information or complaint when the defendant has been detained in jail or subject to conditions of release.

Three days is wholly inadequate to provide notice to crime victims of the arraignment hearing. Further, it does not allow sufficient time for victims to make work, childcare, or transportation arrangements so that they may attend, and it does not allow sufficient time for victims to provide their input to an advocate or prosecutor to relay to the court. Article 1, section 35 of the Washington Constitution ensures that victims have a *meaningful* role in the criminal justice system and recognizes their right to “due dignity and respect.” Crime victims are constitutionally entitled to be informed of and to attend and make a statement at any proceeding where *the defendant’s release is considered*. The proposed three-day timeline does not meet constitutional requirements and is not trauma-informed for victims on serious cases.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Amy Meckling WSBA #28274
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Co-Chair, Appellate Unit
Criminal Division
King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office

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[2025 Proposed 4.1 Rule Change Comments Letter.pdf](#)
Importance: High

From: Meckling, Amy <Amy.Meckling@kingcounty.gov>
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Attached, please find my comments to the proposed amendments to CrR 4.1 and CrRLJ 4.1.

Thank you,



Amy Meckling (she/her)

SENIOR DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

CO-CHAIR, APPELLATE UNIT

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