FILED
SUPREME COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON
DECEMBER 5, 2024
BY ERIN L. LENNON
CLERK

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO CrRLJ 2.2—WARRANT OF ARREST OR SUMMONS UPON COMPLAINT	)))))))

O R D E R

NO. 25700-A-1614

The District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA), having recommended the adoption of the suggested amendments to CrRLJ 2.2—Warrant of Arrest or Summons Upon Complaint, and the Court having considered the suggested amendments, and having determined that the suggested amendments will aid in the prompt and orderly administration of justice;

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

(a)   That the suggested amendments as attached hereto are adopted.

(b)   That pursuant to the emergency provisions of GR 9(j)(1), the suggested amendments will be expeditiously published in the Washington Reports and will become effective upon publication.

ORDER
IN THE MATTER OF THE SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO CrRLJ 2.2—WARRANT OF
ARREST OR SUMMONS UPON COMPLAINT

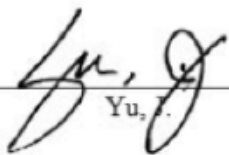DATED at Olympia, Washington this 5th day of December, 2024.

González, C.J.

Johnson, J.

Gordon McCloud, J.

Madsen, J.

Yu, J.

Montoya-Lewis, J.

Stephens, J.

Whitener, J.

Suggested Amendments to

**WASHINGTON STATE COURT RULES:
CRIMINAL RULES FOR COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION (CrRLJ)**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CrRLJ 2.2

1. **Proponent Organization:** District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA)

2. **Spokesperson:** Judge Karl Williams, President DMCJA; Judge Catherine McDowall, Co-Chair DMCJA Court Rules Committee; Judge Wade Samuelson, Co-Chair DMCJA Court Rules Committee

3. **Purpose of Proposed Rule Amendment:**

   This is a proposed technical change to CrRLJ 2.2(a)(3)(i) to both reflect past changes to local and statewide case management systems, and to anticipate additional such changes in the future.

   CrRLJ 2.2 governs the issuance of warrants in courts of limited jurisdiction. CrRLJ 2.2(a)(3)(i) requires the complainant to attempt to ascertain a defendant's current address by searching several different databases before the court issues a warrant. As presently written, CrRLJ 2.2(a)(3)(i)(A) still refers to the District Court Information System (DISCIS) database even though that program was renamed Judicial Information Systems (JIS) in 1997. More problematic, however, is the fact that not all limited jurisdiction courts use JIS as their case management system. Some courts have transitioned to a new case management system provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (with more courts expected to make the transition as JIS is projected to be phased out by the end of 2027), and some courts use their own programs.

   We propose changing the language of CrRLJ 2.2(a)(3)(i)(A) to refer generally to statewide court information system databases instead of to any specific programs. This change will accurately reflect the fact that not all courts of limited jurisdiction use the same case management system.

4. **Hearing:** A hearing is not recommended.

5. **Expedited Consideration:** Expedited consideration is requested.

CrRLJ 2.2 WARRANT OF ARREST OR SUMMONS UPON COMPLAINT

(a) Issuance of Warrant of Arrest.
(1) - (2) [Unchanged.]
(3) *Ascertaining Defendant's Current Address*.

(i) Search for Address. The court shall not issue a warrant unless it determines that the complainant has attempted to ascertain the defendant's current address by searching the following: (A) ~~the~~ any statewide court ~~District Court~~ ~~Information~~ information system database ~~(DISCIS)~~ used by the court when the warrant is issued, (B) the driver's license and identicard database maintained by the Department of Licenses; and (C) the database maintained by the Department of Corrections listing persons incarcerated and under supervision. The court in its discretion may require that other databases be searched.

(ii) Exemptions from Address Search. The search required by subdivision (i) shall not be required if (A) the defendant has already appeared in court (in person or through counsel) after filing of the same case, (B) the defendant is known to be in custody, or (C) the defendant's name is unknown.

(iii) Effect of Erroneous Issuance. If a warrant is erroneously issued in violation of this subsection (a)(3), that error shall not affect the validity of the warrant.

(b) - (g) [Unchanged.]

[Adopted effective September 1, 1987; Amended effective September 1, 1991; September 1, 1995; September 1, 2003; September 1, 2006; September 1, 2014; February 1, 2021; July 9, 2024.]