

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF STAYING LOCAL RULE-
MAKING REQUIREMENTS FOR REDACTION OF
DISCOVERY UNDER CrR 4.7—DISCOVERY AND
CrRLJ 4.7—DISCOVERY

ORDER

NO. 25700-A-1624

By order dated September 5, 2024, the Court adopted amendments to CrR 4.7 and CrRLJ 4.7. *See* Order No. 25700-A-1593. These amendments were effective upon publication in Washington Reports, which occurred on October 1, 2024. *See* 3 Wn.3d 1253-55 (Official Advance Sheets No. 9, October 1, 2024). The amendments included a requirement that each Superior, District, and Municipal Court shall, through the local rule-making process, “publish guidelines for redactions within three months of adoption of this rule.” CrR 4.7(h)(3), CrRLJ 4.7(g)(3).

By letter dated October 22, 2024, the District and Municipal Court Judges’ Association (DMCJA) and the Superior Court Judges’ Association (SCJA) requested that the Court “pause its requirement that each trial court of this state create its own separate CrR 4.7/CrRLJ 4.7 redaction rule.” The DMCJA and SCJA suggest “a far better alternative is the implementation of a uniform redaction rule, created by the Supreme Court Rules Committee with input from stakeholders statewide and in accordance with the Committee’s own rulemaking procedures.”

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DISCOVERY

The Court, having considered the request from the DMCJA and SCJA, finds that the requested stay is warranted to provide time for the proposal and potential adoption of a uniform rule regarding redaction of discovery under CrR 4.7 and CrRLJ 4.7.

Now, therefore, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and the Court's authority to take emergency action with respect to rules pursuant to GR 9(j)(1),

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

The requirements under CrR 4.7(h)(3) and CrRLJ 4.7(g)(3) that each Superior, District, and Municipal Court shall, through the local rule-making process, publish guidelines for redactions are stayed until April 30, 2025.

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

For the Court


CHIEF JUSTICE