

## SCLCrR 4.1 ARRAIGNMENT (New Rule)

### Comments

**Commenter:** Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office

**Date Received:** 6/8/2021

**Comment:**

Why remote appearance for arraignment? It makes the process challenging when counsel (especially private) don't tell us that they're appearing via Zoom and therefore nothing can be signed in advance. It results in hearings being set over – or worse, release orders & NCOs being entered with no defendant signature. Setting hearings over is inefficient and burdensome on the court, the parties, the defendant AND the victim. I understand the rule contemplates the NCO signature issue and requires signature, but only because it allows for remote appearance in the first place...which again, why?

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Allowing Defendants/defense to set over matters where they have not undertaken to sign protection orders ahead of time means that there another week or two where protection orders aren't in place. Arguably, that may or may not create a safety issue, but then if a defendant tries to contact a victim, the victim has no immediate means to address it.