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Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 4:39 PM

To: LR Comments <lrcomments@kingcounty.gov>

Subject: Proposed Local Rule Changes Public Comment

Good afternoon,

There are questions and concerns that I have regarding the Proposed Local Rule changes, specifically LFLR 12. Please see below:

e(1)(a)

It is not clear how parties are to submit a chart, summary or calculation of the materials they have filed into their case. I am concerned that this will create confusion, especially for non-English speaking parties. Is the court going to provide a template for parties to use?

(e)(1)(c)

The language used in this section is confusing. It is not clear whether the declaration written in a petition or subsequent amended petition is considered their one submission in support of their request for a protection order. It would be helpful if this section included clarifying language highlighting that this is referencing a separate declaration than the one filed with the petition or amended petition.

Looking at the last row of the table where “Exhibits to Declaration” is listed, it is not clear to pro se parties, especially those with language barriers, what an exhibit is. It would be helpful to include clarifying language what the court means by an exhibit.

(e)(1)(e)

Clarity is needed on what is meant by “impose other terms at its discretion”. It is important to list what those could be so parties are fully aware of the possible consequences if they fail to comply with the written submission limitations. Also, non-English speaking parties may write their declaration in their native language and attached a translation. This means that they could potentially be filing a document longer than 3 pages because of the translation. Clarification is needed whether this would be non-compliance with the submission rules given that the original declaration may be 3 pages or less, but the attached translation would make the submission longer.

(f)

The process of submitting proposed parties as pro se litigants is going to be difficult and burdensome for parties, especially those with language barriers. I am concerned that pro se litigants will not correctly complete the proposed order, if so, will this result in penalties from the court? What resources/guidance will be provided to litigants by the court regarding how to complete and submit a proposed order? I worry that proposed orders being mailed

in will not make it to the court on time or get lost in the mail. Will there be penalties for such situations? Will the court allow continuances for petitioners to get their proposed orders submitted correctly?

(g)

I worry that there is no equity being provided for non-English litigants when deadlines are being set in their cases. It is very difficult and can take time to get connected to advocacy and legal services for assistance in meeting those deadlines. By the time they are able to be seen for assistance, the deadline has already passed. I would ask that the court consider giving more time in these cases to allow equitable access to justice both as petitioners and respondents.

(h)

I have seen firsthand how non-English speaking parties have been given the same amount of time to present their case as English speaking parties without considering that when an interpreter is providing interpretation during the hearing, it takes double the amount of time. This is not equitable.

12 (i)

The use of the term "Interpreted liberally" is concerning because it will lead to inconsistencies in the protection order process. The same circumstances can lead to different outcomes based on the liberal interpretation and this can cause more harm than good to all parties involved.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Graciela Hernandez (She/Her)

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