

January 10, 2022

Clerk of Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 188  
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules

Dear Madame Clerk and Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the comments filed with regard to Rule Petition 21-04, on juvenile shackling.

The comments came from a wide variety of sources, some with specific experience with shackling and unshackling children, several legal experts, several children's advocates, the Catholic Conference, and some interested citizens. It seems that there is universal agreement that indiscriminate shackling is harmful to children, to the juvenile court system, and to the goal of reducing recidivism. The procedure and standard proposed in the rule is consistent with this court's decisions and "best practices" in juvenile court. And there seems to be universal agreement that court safety and security is not endangered, and perhaps is even improved, by application of the standards set forth in the proposed rule.

If the court has questions or concerns about the proposed rule, we hope to address them at the public hearing on the rule on February 15, 2022.

Sincerely,

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Eileen A. Hirsch  
On behalf of the petitioners