



Kentucky
Court of Justice (/)



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Citizen Foster Care Review Board

How to Volunteer

Advocating for the dependent, neglected and abused children is an important and meaningful way to invest time and energy. To inquire about volunteering, contact the Division of Family Services at CFCRB@kycourts.net (<mailto:CFCRB@kycourts.net>).

Thousands of Kentucky children enter foster care each year due to dependency, neglect and abuse. Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers play an important role in protecting these children by reviewing the case of each child in the custody of the Department for Community Based Services (<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dCBS/Pages/default.aspx>) in the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

These cases include young people whose commitments have been extended, children placed for adoptions that have not been finalized, children who have been returned home but remain committed and young adults whose out-of-home commitments have been extended.

CFCRB volunteers provide recommendations to judges who make decisions about placing children in safe, permanent homes. Volunteers help ensure that permanency for at-risk children remains the central objective of the courts and the cabinet.

The Kentucky General Assembly created the CFCRB in 1982 (<https://casetext.com/statute/kentucky-revised-statutes/title-51-unified-juvenile-code/chapter-620-dependency-neglect-and-abuse/section-620190-citizen-foster-care-review-boards-local-citizen-foster-care-review-boards>) as a way to decrease the time children spend in foster care. The AOC's Division of Family Services oversees the program by providing support and education to CFCRB volunteers. The division is dedicated to eliminating racial inequities and injustices for the children and families served by the CFCRB.

There are review boards in all 120 counties and more than 750 dedicated volunteers statewide. Volunteers come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds, but they all share a sincere concern for the welfare of children. The average length of service is six years, which demonstrates a long-term commitment to the children they serve.

Interested Party Review

An interested party review is an interactive review that focuses on case plans for the parents and their child and the progress being made to secure permanency for the child. Those involved in IPRs include CFCRB volunteers, parents, care providers, service providers, Department for Community Based Services personnel, Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers, and the attorneys for the children and their parents. Once the mandatory IPR has been completed, the local CFCRB submits a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations to the judge.

Since the CFCRB adopted IPR in 2007, the number of boards using this interactive review has grown to 74 percent of all cases reviewed.

IPR Questionnaires

If you have been invited to participate in an interested party review but are unable to attend, please complete the questionnaire that pertains to your role in the child's case. It is important to submit the questionnaire prior to the IPR meeting so that your input can be considered.

The IPR questionnaires give children in foster care, their parents or guardians, and other interested parties the opportunity to share feedback on how well the child's needs are being met while in out-of-home care.

Youth

CFCRB Questionnaire for Youth (<https://forms.office.com/g/zPFyghQvLa>)

Biological Parents & Foster Parents

CFCRB Questionnaire for Biological Parents (<https://forms.office.com/g/c6aEEBY3ih>)

CFCRB Questionnaire for Foster Parents (<https://forms.office.com/g/Pk0qzutjCV>)

Other Interested Parties

CFCRB Questionnaire for Interested Parties: Guardians ad Litem, Attorneys, Service Providers, CASA Volunteers and Other Interested Parties (<https://forms.office.com/g/sQFvWbk6E>)

Appointing & Training Volunteers

Individuals interested in volunteering must consent to criminal record and Central Registry checks and complete an initial six-hour training session. They are trained on these topics:

- CHFS and Department for Community Based Services procedures
- Court processes
- Dependency, neglect and abuse case forms
- Process for conducting a review
- Mental health issues of children in out-of-home care

Once an individual has completed the background checks and training, a recommendation is made to the chief judge of the local Family Court or District Court for the volunteer to be appointed to the local board. Judges appoint volunteers for three-year terms.

After being appointed, volunteers receive a comprehensive handbook on the program and opportunities to earn the required six hours of annual continuing education.

Review boards typically meet once a month for at least two hours. Each board has at least three members, with some boards having as many as 12 members.



Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards

● [COURT-PROGRAMS/FAMILY-AND-JUVENILE-SERVICES/PAGES/CITIZEN-FOSTER-CARE-REVIEW-BOARD-CONTACT.ASPX](#)

● [HTTPS://KCOJ.KYCOURTS.NET/CFCRBVOLUNTEERS/APPLICATION/WELCOME](https://kcoj.kycourts.net/cfcrbvolunteers/application/welcome)

[Policy & Procedure Manual \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/CFCRB_Manual_2020.pdf\)](#)

[CFCRB Executive Committee \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/cfcrbexecutivecommittee_20232024.pdf\)](#)

Training

[2024 Initial training dates for potential volunteers \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/2024cfcrbinitialtraindates.pdf\)](#)

[2024 regional training dates for current volunteers \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/2024cfcrbregionaltrainingdates.pdf\)](#)

[Continuing Education Form \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/CFCRB_Cont%20Ed-SMART_Form.pdf\)](#)

Resources

[Kentucky Resources for Youth & Families \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/ResourcesforYouthFamiliesbrochure.pdf\)](#)

[Thriving Families Safer Children \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/Thriving_Families_Safer_Children_Statement_of_Commitment.pdf\)](#)

Annual Reports

[2023 CFCRB Annual Report \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/2023CFCRBAnnualReport.pdf\)](#)

[2022 CFCRB Annual Report \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/2022CFCRBAnnualReport.pdf\)](#)

[2021 CFCRB Annual Report \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/CFCRBAnnualReport_2021.pdf\)](#)

[2020 CFCRB Annual Report \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/CFCRBAnnualreport2020.pdf\)](#)

[2019 CFCRB Annual Report \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/2019CFCRBAnnualReport.pdf\)](#)

[2018 CFCRB Annual Report \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/2018CFCRBAnnualReport.pdf\)](#)

[2017 CFCRB Annual Report \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/2017CFCRBAnnualReport.pdf\)](#)

[2016 CFCRB Annual Report \(/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Documents/2016CFCRBAnnualReport.pdf\)](#)

[Judicial Vacancies \(/Courts/Pages/Judicial-Vacancies.aspx\)](#)

[Judicial Ethics Committee \(/Courts/Judicial-Ethics/Pages/default.aspx\)](#)

[Judicial Conduct Commission \(/Courts/Pages/Judicial-Conduct-Commission.aspx\)](#)

[Circuit Court Clerk Conduct Commission \(/Courts/County-Information/Pages/Clerk-Conduct-Commission.aspx\)](#)

[Court Personnel Directory \(https://kcoj.kycourts.net/ContactList/Search\)](https://kcoj.kycourts.net/ContactList/Search)

[Report Fraud, Waste & Abuse \(/Pages/Report-Fraud-Waste-Abuse.aspx\)](#)

[Request Court Records \(/Pages/Open-Records-Request.aspx\)](#) [COVID-19 \(/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx\)](#)

[Court ADA \(/AOC/Careers/Pages/Court%20ADA.aspx\)](#) [Site Map \(/Pages/sitemap.aspx\)](#)

[Policies \(https://kentucky.gov/policies/Pages/default.aspx\)](https://kentucky.gov/policies/Pages/default.aspx)

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