



## Administrative Office of the Courts

1001 Vandalay Drive  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
502-573-2350 or 800-928-2350  
www.courts.ky.gov

**John D. Minton, Jr.**  
Chief Justice of Kentucky

**Laurie K. Dudgeon**  
Director

Contact: Jamie Neal, Public Information Specialist  
502-573-2350, ext. 50033, [jamieneal@kycourts.net](mailto:jamieneal@kycourts.net)

*For Immediate Release*

Public invited to give input on state foster care system  
at regional forums August-October

### **Forums being held statewide as part of House Bill 1 reforms**

FRANKFORT, Ky., Aug. 1, 2018 – The public is invited to [regional community forums](#) that will take place across the state August-October to discuss improving outcomes for Kentucky children and families involved in the state foster care system. [Citizen Foster Care Review Boards](#) in the regions are hosting the forums.

CFCRBs will host seven regional community forums across the state between Aug. 24 and Oct. 29. The forums are among the reforms called for in [House Bill 1](#), legislation passed in 2018 to address issues with foster care and adoption.

“These forums are an important opportunity for people to share their concerns about how children and families experience the foster care system in Kentucky and talk about what can be done to improve it,” said Ed Staats, chairman of the state CFCRB, which guides the work of local CFCRBs statewide. “Some of the topics we anticipate discussing are getting children into permanent homes as soon as possible and ensuring their safety and well-being while they’re in care. This will be the first time CFCRBs will hear directly from our communities about these issues. I’m hopeful that citizens will also learn more about the work of their local CFCRBs and consider getting involved.”

Findings from the forums will be reported to the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board and included in the board’s annual recommendations to the Supreme Court, governor and legislature.

Due to confidentiality, specific case information will not be discussed at the forums.

## Forum Schedule

### **Elizabethtown**

Aug. 24, 2018  
1:30-3 p.m. ET  
Hardin County Extension Office  
201 Peterson Drive

### **Salyersville**

Sept. 21, 2018  
1:30-3 p.m. ET  
Magoffin County Extension Office  
15 Rockhouse Road

### **Lexington**

Sept. 25, 2018  
1:30-3 p.m. ET  
Robert F. Stephens Circuit Courthouse  
Community Room  
120 N. Limestone St.

### **Madisonville**

Sept. 28, 2018  
1:30-3 p.m. CT  
Baptist Health Building I  
8th floor, 200 Clinic Drive

### **Florence**

Oct. 19, 2018  
1:30-3 p.m. ET  
Florence Government Center  
8100 Ewing Blvd.

### **Somerset**

Oct. 26, 2018  
12:30-1:45 p.m. ET  
Pulaski County Community Room  
925 N. Main St.

### **Louisville**

Oct. 29, 2018  
1:30-3 p.m. ET  
Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky  
1640 Lyndon Farm Court

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### **CFCRB volunteers needed**

[Citizen Foster Care Review Boards](#) in 30 Kentucky counties are seeking volunteers to make a difference in the lives of local children in foster care and other out-of-home care. The boards need volunteers to review cases of children placed in care because of dependency, neglect or abuse, to ensure they are placed in safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible.

The counties in need of volunteers are Allen, Barren, Breckinridge, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Christian, Clark, Crittenden, Fayette, Fulton, Garrard, Graves, Grayson, Green, Hardin, Hart, Hickman, Jessamine, LaRue, Lincoln, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Madison, Marshall, McLean, Todd, Trigg and Warren. Volunteers are not required to live in these counties.

CFCRBs are teams of court-appointed volunteers who review Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services cases of children who are in foster care or other out-of-home care due to dependency, neglect or abuse. The volunteers work to ensure that children's needs are met while in care and that they are placed in safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. The 700-plus volunteers statewide make recommendations to the cabinet and the courts on behalf of the children. CHFS administers the state foster care program.

All volunteers must complete a six-hour initial training session. Potential volunteers are encouraged to apply as soon as possible so they can be screened and, if approved, scheduled for training in their area.

Potential volunteers must consent to a criminal record and Central Registry check. A recommendation is then made to the chief judge of the District Court or Family Court for appointment.

For more information and to apply to be a volunteer, visit the [CFCRB section](#) of the Kentucky Court of Justice website.

### **CFCRB**

In Fiscal Year 2017, volunteers conducted more than 20,000 reviews of more than 11,400 cases of children in foster and other out-of-home care.

The Kentucky General Assembly created the Kentucky CFCRB in 1982 to decrease the time children spend in out-of-home care.

### **AOC**

The Administrative Office of the Courts administers the CFCRB program. The AOC is the operations arm for the state court system and supports the activities of nearly 3,300 employees and 404 elected justices, judges and circuit court clerks. The AOC also executes the Judicial Branch budget.

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