

Proceedings Open to the Public

Open Court Pilot Project

Some child protection proceedings in this courtroom will be open to the public under a pilot project. These cases involve child dependency, neglect and abuse, and termination of parental rights. Sexual abuse cases will remain closed.

What the Public Can Do

- Observe proceedings in the courtroom.

What the Public Cannot Do

- Record the hearing/case (no video, audio, photos, etc.).
- Take written or electronic notes if those notes contain the name or personal information of any minor child who is a party or a witness unless the name/information was obtained outside of court.
- Get copies of any documents or court recording of a case.
- Tell anyone the name or personal information of any party or witness in the case unless the person you are telling is also a party or witness in the case.

Survey About Your Experience

If you are a party to the proceedings or a professional involved in the case, you will have the opportunity to complete a survey about your experience with open court. Surveys are available in the lobby.

Pilot Project

The Kentucky Court of Justice is conducting this Open Court Pilot Project. Child protection proceedings are normally closed due to confidentiality, but this study will look at whether it is beneficial to open some of these proceedings for the public to observe. The Supreme Court of Kentucky issued an order March 13, 2018, authorizing the Open Court Pilot Project. The 2016 Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation for the project under KRS 21A.190-192. The judge may still close proceedings if it is determined to be in the best interest of the child or for other good cause.



Department of Family and Juvenile Services
Administrative Office of the Courts
1001 Vandalay Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
502-573-2350 or 800-928-2350
www.courts.ky.gov