

How to Volunteer

Advocating for the dependent, neglected and abused children in your community is an important and meaningful way to invest your time and energy.

If you would like to become a CFCRB volunteer for your county or would like more information, please mail this form to the address below or contact:

Department of Family and Juvenile Services
Administrative Office of the Courts
800-928-2350
CFCRB@kycourts.net

Request for Information

Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards

I am interested in learning more about volunteering with my local Citizen Foster Care Review Board. Please contact me to provide more information.

Name _____

Profession _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please return this form to:

Department of Family and Juvenile Services
Administrative Office of the Courts
1001 Vandalay Drive
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone 502-573-2350, Fax 502-782-8705
CFCRB@kycourts.net



Chief Justice
John D. Minton Jr.

CFCRB volunteers help protect Kentucky's children

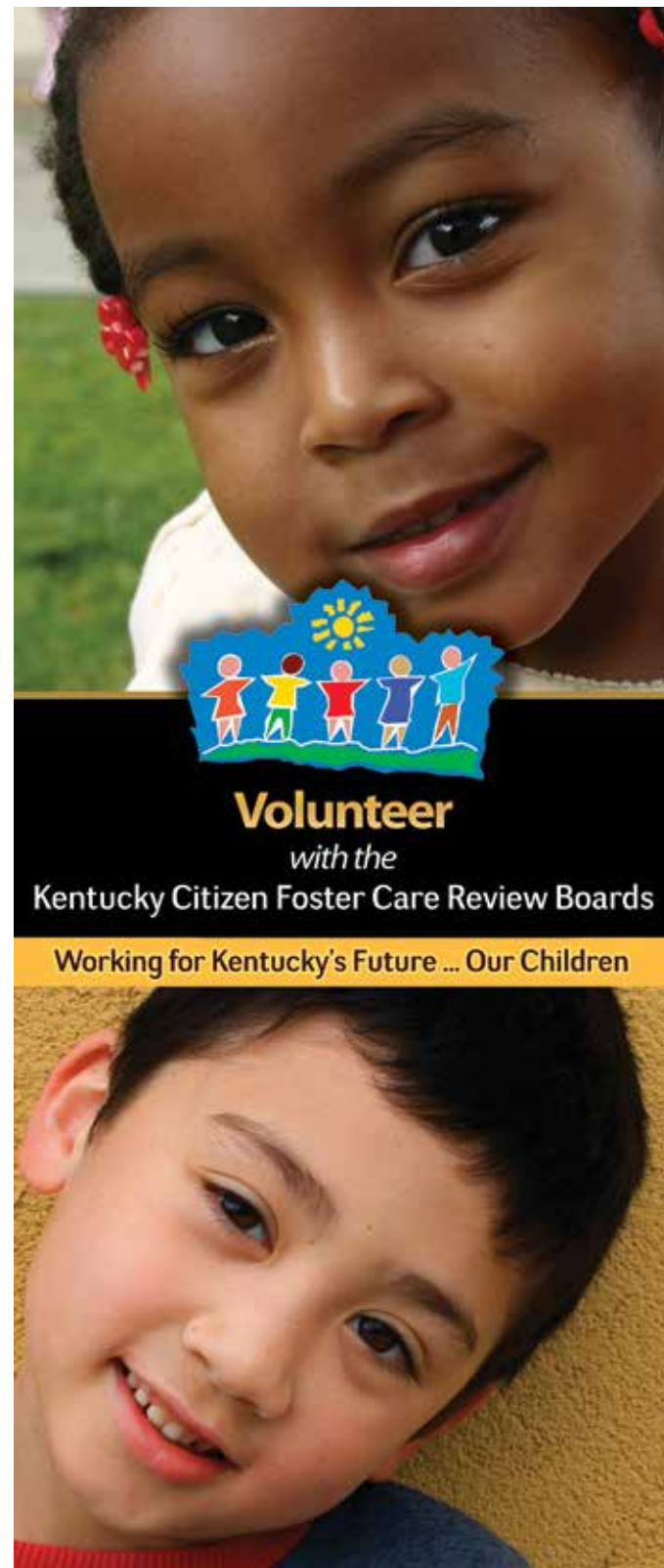
Thousands of Kentucky children enter foster care each year due to dependency, neglect and abuse. Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers play an important role in protecting these children by reviewing the cases of each child in the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

As a result of this major undertaking, review boards provide a valuable service to courts throughout the commonwealth by helping guard the safety and well-being of the children in foster care. I appreciate the many dedicated volunteers who selflessly commit to this important endeavor.



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

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Ensuring Our Children's Future

Volunteers for the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards review the cases of children who have been removed from their homes due to dependency, neglect and abuse. As a result, these children have been placed into the care of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

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 as a way to decrease the time children spend in foster care. The CFCRB operates within the Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort. The AOC provides administrative support to the Judicial Branch.

Volunteer Review Boards

Kentucky has the largest volunteer-based citizen review system in the nation

There are review boards in all 120 counties and more than 700 dedicated volunteers statewide. Each year CFCRB volunteers conduct nearly 21,000 reviews of more than 11,000 children who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care, in child-care facilities or with relatives.

These cases include youth 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 Vision

» With respect to children in care: Ensure adequate and necessary services are provided to families and children with the utmost importance given to safety, well-being and permanency.

» With respect to the judges we serve: Provide timely, accurate and sufficiently detailed information about children in care so as to promote knowledgeable permanency decisions.

» With respect to CFCRB volunteers: Promote awareness and understanding regarding children's issues through educational opportunities at local, regional and state levels.

Dedicated Volunteers

CFCRB volunteers come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds, but all share a genuine concern for children and their welfare. The most recent figures show that 86 percent are female and 43 percent have backgrounds in education, medicine, law, social work and psychology.

The volunteers range in age from 21 to 89, with an average age of 57. The average length of service is six years.

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 Board Meetings

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.



Our mission is to ensure safe, permanent, timely placement of Kentucky's children in out-of-home care.

» With respect to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services: Provide meaningful, respectful feedback regarding paths to permanency.