

2018 General Assembly

Family Law and Related Bills

Complete Through Filing Deadlines

This table shows selected Family Law and related bills filed in the 2018 General Assembly. Bills that passed are indicated with an asterisk under the bill number.

How to use: To see the Legislative Research Commission summary of a bill and check its status, click the bill number. To see the text of the bill and amendments, click the links in the summary. For a complete list of bills, view the legislature's own website: www.lrc.ky.gov.

This chart was compiled by Kentucky Equal Justice Center. For more information, or to share comments on a bill, contact Rich Seckel at richseckel@kyequaljustice.org.

Topic	Bill #	Sponsor	Summary
Access	HB 131	McCoy	Guardianship competency: clarify when a respondent's presence at hearing may be waived; allow a bench trial when the parties agree; details
Access	HB 515	Imes	Move venue from Franklin Circuit Court to county where events underlying enforcement actions occurred when appealing decisions of state agencies
Access	SB 135	Schroder	Omnibus notary bill: allow online notaries and county clerks to perform all notarial acts; allow notarization by electronic means; more
Access	SB 137 *	Westerfield	Create hearsay exception for out of court statement by child 12 or less about sexual act involving the child or physical violence against the child
Corrections	HB 70 *	Fischer	Prohibit sex offender registrants from using electronic communications to solicit, contact, or gather information about a person less than 18
Corrections	HB 356 *	Petrie	Prohibit sex offender registrant 18 or older who has committed a criminal offense against a minor from having same residence as a minor; details
Corrections	HB 447	Thomas	Prohibit early release for offenders who tortured animals as a way to threaten, intimidate, harass, or terrorize member of family or of dating relationship
Criminal	HB 71 *	St. Onge	Prohibit the distribution of sexually explicit images without consent; penalties
Criminal	HB 101 *	Petrie	Declare 16 or 17 year-olds incapable of consent when actor is 28 years-old or older; declare sex with 16 or 17 year-olds rape in the third degree

Criminal	HB 110	DuPlessis	Expand "exploitation" to include obtaining or using controlled substances prescribed to vulnerable adult or member of household; Class C felony for violation
Criminal	SB 30 *	Westerfield	Crime Victims' Bill of Rights: change statutory definition of "victim"; require that restitution to victim be made when possible; details
Employment	SB 38	Kerr	Pregnant workers bill: include in "reasonable accommodation" accommodations made for pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions
Family	HB 1 *	Meade	Child welfare: update processes for delivery of family preservation services; expand definition of "abused or neglected child;" more re TPR
Family	HB 5 *	Elliott	Guardianship: retain the right to a jury trial in a guardianship competency hearing if demanded by or on behalf of any party; more
Family	HB 11 *	Shell	Adopt portions of Uniform Power of Attorney Act of 2006; provide that the chapter shall apply to all powers of attorney with specified exceptions
Family	HB 123	Prunty	Create a "Break the Silence" special license plate; fees to KCADV to support programs for survivors of domestic violence
Family	HB 167 *	Dossett	Define "newborn safety device" and allow devices to be used anonymously at hospitals to surrender newborn infants
Family	HB 179	Scott	Constitutional amendment: repeal provision defining marriage as between one man and one woman
Family	HB 230	Webber	Permanently establish a kinship care program
Family	HB 239	Huff	Erin's Law: permit KY Bd of Ed to establish age-appropriate education programs about child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and how to report abuse
Family	HB 269	L. Brown	Add a divorce and co-parenting education requirement before a divorce involving minor children; bar testimony for one year
Family	HB 288	Harris	Allow spouses to create community property trust; provide that trust terminates on divorce or death; exclude surviving spouse's share from gross income
Family	HB 301	Elliott	Allow DCBS to request federal name-based criminal history record check of each adult in home where child is placed for emergency placement
Family	HB 360 *	Carney	Include in definition of "state agency children" children referred by a family response team to a DOJ operated or contracted day treatment program

Family	HB 459	Adkins	Allow income tax credit for qualified adoption expenses in amount equal to 20% of allowable federal credit
Family	HB 499	Sims	Update amounts outlined in child support table; eliminate \$60 obligation at \$0 income; extend table to \$20,000
Family	HB 517 *	McCoy	Create presumption that grandparent visitation is in child's best interest when parent who is the child of the grandparent is deceased; details
Family	HB 527 *	Riley	Direct DCBS to place foster child within school district where child was enrolled immediately prior to placement if practicable; require transportation
Family	HB 528 *	Petrie	Create presumption that joint custody and equal parenting time are in the best interest of the child; details
Family	HB 544	Jenkins	Allow petition for 1-year extreme risk protective order when respondent poses significant danger through possessing a firearm; details
Family	HB 549	Cantrell	Establish that blindness of a parent is not a reason to restrict custody or parenting time; more
Family	HB 561	Upchurch	Make the fee for court-appointed counsel in DNA cases same in District Court as Family Court
Family	HJR 33 *	Elliott	Create a pilot Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders project to examine how Kentucky's adult guardianship is working
Family	SB 31	Parrett	Permanently establish kinship care program
Family	SB 39	Kerr	Permit KY Board of Education to establish age appropriate education program on how to identify and report signs of child abuse
Family	SB 43	Westerfield	Adoption: redefine the time when voluntary a consent to adoption becomes irrevocable; remove waiting period to file a petition for adoption; more
Family	SB 48 *	Adams	Prohibit individuals under 17 from marrying; establish process for 17- year old to petition a court for permission to marry; details
Family	SB 68 *	McGarvey	Clarify that victim of domestic violence is not required to pay legal fees for abusive spouse for divorce when spouse is incarcerated
Family	SB 108 *	Kerr	Update definition of health care coverage for purposes of child support enforcement to comply with changes in federal law

Family	SB 145	Higdon	Allow grandparents to seek court-ordered visitation only in certain cases and only if the court determines visitation is in best interest of child; details
Family	SB 148	Webb	Require that all application, record, and statistical forms relating to adoption are accessible to the public electronically by August 1, 2018
Family	SB 201 *	Kerr	Expand scope of existing State Interagency Council for Services and Supports to Children to include Transition-Age Youth; details
Family	SB 204 *	Kerr	Provide taxpayers the option to donate to Kentucky CASA network fund from individual income tax refund
Family	SB 256	Westerfield	Adoption: specify relatives not needing secretary's approval; align placement options with Interstate Compact; limit fees for appointed counsel; more
Health	HB 423	Wuchner	Establish Family in Recovery Empowerment Public and Private Partnership Grant Program trust fund; establishing 4 model programs during 2018-2020
Housing	HB 378	Prunty	Allow landlord in non-URLTA county or city to terminate tenancy at will by giving 7 days written notice