

OVLS JECVO UPDATE UPDATED JANUARY 2024

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Office of Veteran Legal Services (OVLS)

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA)



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The Information Included Herein Does Not Constitute Legal Advice**



OFFICE OF VETERAN LEGAL SERVICES

OVLS was created and operates to further KDVA's statutory mandate.

40.300 Department of Veterans' Affairs attached to Office of Governor—Organization.

(1) There is created the Department of Veterans' Affairs, which shall be attached to the Office of the Governor for administrative purposes. Notwithstanding KRS 12.028, the department's status as a separate organizational unit attached to the Office of the Governor shall not be changed except by action of the General Assembly. The department shall be headed by a commissioner appointed by the Governor pursuant to KRS 12.040.

(3) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall be responsible for providing services to veterans in accordance with KRS 40.310 and KRS 40.320 to 40.335.

(4) There is created the Office of Veteran Legal Services within the Office of the Commissioner. The office shall be headed by an executive director appointed pursuant to KRS 12.050 who shall report to the commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

40.310 Duties of Department of Veterans' Affairs.

(1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall collect all necessary data and information regarding facilities and services available to veterans, their families, and dependents, and shall cooperate with all information or service agencies throughout the state in informing such persons regarding the existence or availability of all educational, training, and retraining facilities; health, medical, rehabilitation, and housing services and facilities; employment and reemployment services; provisions of federal, state, and local laws affording rights, privileges, and benefits to said persons, their families, and dependents, and all other matters of similar related or appropriate nature.

It shall likewise be the duty of the department to assist veterans and their families and dependents in the presentation, proof, and establishment of all claims, privileges, rights, and other benefits which they may have under federal, state, or local laws, and to cooperate with all national, state, and local government and private agencies securing services or any benefits to veterans, their families, and dependents.



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OFFICE OF VETERAN LEGAL SERVICES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS & APPEALS CLAIMS

COMPENSATION AND PENSION CLAIMS (USVA):

-  CLAIM INITIATION: If veterans contact OVLS to pursue benefits, veterans will be directed to KDVA's Benefits Division to establish powers of attorney (POAs) and initiate claims.
-  APPELLATE LEVEL REVIEW: If veterans contact OVLS to appeal their VA decision, veterans will be directed to KDVA's Benefits Team's Regional Administrator who provides appellate representations for veterans as they further their claims with the Louisville Regional Office and/or the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) in Washington D.C.







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OFFICE OF VETERAN LEGAL SERVICES




LEGAL REFERRALS FOR RETIREES & MILITARY MEMBERS

FORT KNOX LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE (FKLAO):

-  *Members of the Armed Forces of the United States and family members.*
-  ***Retired military personnel and family members.***
-  *Survivors of members of the Armed Forces who would be eligible were the soldiers alive.*
-  *Reserve Component personnel on active duty for thirty days or more.*

Where active-duty or retired military contact OVLS for legal assistance, based on their location in the Commonwealth, referrals are made to the Legal Assistance Office (FKLAO) at Fort Knox, which is located at Building 130, Pike Hall at the corner of Knox and Third Street. FKLAO is effectively the 'law firm' for active duty, retired, survivors, and Reservists on active duty for 30 days or more.

FKLAO is open: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 0900-1600, and on Thursday from 1300 to 1600.

-  Consultations with attorneys are BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.
-  Activity-duty personnel should call **502.624.2771** to schedule an appointment or visit the website at <https://home.army.mil/knox/index.php/about/Garrison/legal-assistance-office/legal-assistance-division>.
-  Walk-in Service: The walk-in service is available for a limited number of clients on Friday beginning at 0900. **Walk-in clients are seen on a first-come-first-serve basis.**



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LEGAL REFERRALS FOR RETIREES & MILITARY MEMBERS

FORT CAMPBELL ASSISTANCE OFFICE (FCLAO):

- 🇺🇸 *Active Component members of the Armed Forces and their Family Members.*
- 🇺🇸 *Reserve Component members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty more than 29 days, and their Family Members.*
- 🇺🇸 *Active and Reserve Component members of the Armed Forces who are receiving military retirement.*

Where active-duty or retired military contact OVLS for legal assistance, based on their location in the Commonwealth, referrals are also made to the Legal Assistance Office (FCLAO) at Fort Campbell, which is located at Building 2765, Screaming Eagle Blvd., Fort Campbell, KY 42223. FCLAO is effectively the 'law firm' for active duty, retired, and Reservists on active duty more than 29 days.

FCLAO is open: Monday-Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- 🇺🇸 Client Services offers walk-in powers of attorney and notarizations during normal business hours (NO Appointment Necessary).
- 🇺🇸 To contact FCLAO, call **270.798.0918** or visit them on the web at <https://home.army.mil/campbell/index.php/legal>.
- 🇺🇸 Information Papers (e.g., *Will worksheet, POA Fact Sheet, Kentucky Divorce, Paternity Actions, etc.*) are also available at the above website.
- 🇺🇸 Where veterans cannot seek Legal Aid, FCLAO provides a Referral List of Kentucky Attorneys, that offer reduced legal fees for veterans, on a case-by-case basis at:
https://home.army.mil/campbell/application/files/7516/1590/6509/Attorney_Referral_List_-_KY.pdf.






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LEGAL REFERRALS FOR RETIREES & MILITARY MEMBERS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE (WPOJA):

-  *Active Component members of the Armed Forces and their Family Members.*
-  *Reserve Component members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty more than 29 days, and their Family Members.*
-  ***Active and Reserve Component members of the Armed Forces who are receiving military retirement.***

Where active-duty or retired military contact OVLS for legal assistance, based on their location in the Commonwealth (only Kentucky counties bordering Ohio), referrals are also made to the Office of the Judge Advocate (WPOJA) at Wright-Patterson AFB, which is located at Building 10, Area A, 5135 Pearson Road, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433. WPOJA is effectively the 'law firm' for active duty, retired, and Reservists on active duty more than 29 days.

WPOJA is open: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday.

-  Consultations are BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Based on the distanced between Northern Kentucky and Wright-Patterson AFB, it is recommended that veterans seeking services have an appointment before setting out toward the military base.
-  To contact WPOJA, call **937.257.6142** or visit them on the web at <https://www.wpafb.af.mil/Units/ja.aspx>.
-  Information Papers (e.g., *Ohio Divorce Law, Armed Forces Legal Assistance, Estate Planning (U.S. Army Legal Services)*) are also available at the above website.



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OFFICE OF VETERAN LEGAL SERVICES

LEGAL REFERRALS FOR THE KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD

KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD JAG OFFICE (KNG-JAG):

Where members of the Kentucky National Guard (KNG) require legal assistance, the KNG's Family Assistance Centers (FAC) aids family members cope with any issue they encounter as a military dependent. These centers serve the needs of service members, veterans, retirees, and their families, with the following:

-  Legal
-  Financial
-  Identification Cards & DEERS
-  Crisis Prevention & Referrals
-  Community Outreach.

The FAC can be reached at <https://ky.ng.mil/Benefits-Resources/Family-Assistance-Center/>, or 1.800.372.7601 (Option 1), or through the Family Assistance Coordinator at 502.607.1513.



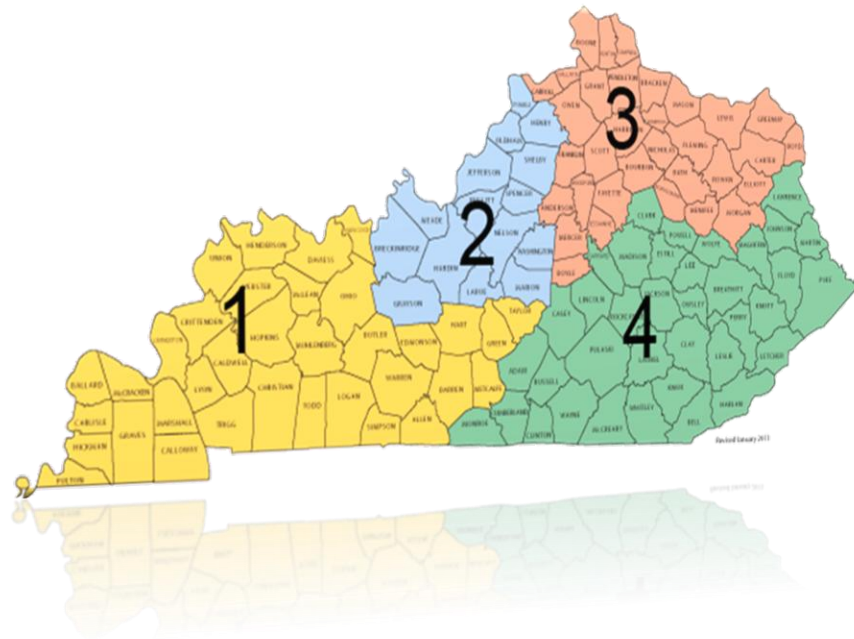
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OFFICE OF VETERAN LEGAL SERVICES

LEGAL REFERRALS FOR VETERANS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Where veterans require low-cost or no-cost legal assistance for civil (non-criminal) matters, OVLS refers veterans to legal aid services available in the Commonwealth. The services are divided into four regions.



Legal Aid provides services to Kentucky veterans who need critical legal assistance but lack the means to hire an attorney. Through the legal advice and representation by both staff and volunteer attorneys, Legal Aid Societies aid veterans with the following:

- 🇺🇸 Avoiding Homelessness: Landlord/Tenant issues.
- 🇺🇸 Resolution of Family Law issues, such as custody & child support.
NOTE: First come first served with family law issues: one spouse or the other...NOT BOTH.
- 🇺🇸 Obtaining life planning documents, such as Powers of Attorney, Living Wills or Healthcare Surrogates, and Last Will and Testaments.
- 🇺🇸 Expunging eligible criminal records.
- 🇺🇸 Aiding with issues effecting financial stability such as consumer debts.

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OFFICE OF VETERAN LEGAL SERVICES

LEGAL AID SERVICE REGIONS BY COUNTY



REGION 1: Kentucky Legal Aid, 1700 Destiny Lane, Bowling Green, KY 42104 (270.782.1924 or 800.782.1924): <https://www.klaid.org/>.

Counties served: Allen, Ballard, Barren, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Edmonson, Fulton, Graves, Green, Hancock, Hart, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, Metcalfe, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Simpson, Taylor, Todd, Trigg, Union, Warren, Webster



REGION 2: Legal Aid Society, 416 W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard, Suite 300, Louisville, KY 40202 (502.584.1254): <https://yourlegalaid.org/>. **

Counties Served: Breckinridge, Bullitt, Grayson, Hardin, Henry, Jefferson, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Washington

****NOTE: Region 2 has recently hired an Attorney to focus exclusively on veterans' issues: The Honorable Frank Bencomo-Suarez.**



REGION 3: Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, 104 E. 7th Street, Covington, KY 41011 (859.431.8200): <https://lablaw.org/home>.

Counties Served: Anderson, Bath, Boone, Bourbon, Boyd, Boyle, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Carter, Elliott, Fayette, Fleming, Franklin, Gallatin, Grant, Greenup, Harrison, Jessamine, Kenton, Lewis, Mason, Menifee, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Nichols, Owen, Pendleton, Robertson, Rowan, Scott, Woodford
Offices

- ☑ 104 East 7th Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011
- ☑ 300 E. Main Street, Suite 110, Lexington, Kentucky 40507
- ☑ 546 E. Main Street, Suite 1, Morehead, Kentucky 40351
- ☑ 1616 Greenup Avenue, Ashland, Kentucky 41101



REGION 4: Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, 120 N. Front Avenue, Prestonsburg, KY 41653 (866.277.5733): <https://www.ardfky.org/>.

Counties Served: Adair, Bell, Breathitt, Casey, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Estill, Floyd, Garrard, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Monroe, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe



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VETERAN TREATMENT COURT REFERRALS

Veterans Treatment Court is designed to assist veterans who have become involved with the criminal justice system and suffer from *mental health issues and/or substance use disorder*. Many of these men and women have been affected by their military service through combat trauma, PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and other circumstances.

Where veterans need assistance and/or guidance concerning the veterans' treatment courts in the Commonwealth, OVLS provides the following resources:



-  Commonwealth of Kentucky Court of Justice: Veterans Treatment Court Website: <https://kycourts.gov/Court-Programs/Specialty-Courts/Pages/Veterans-Treatment-Court.aspx>
 - ☑ There are VTCs in counties in Northern Kentucky (Boone/Kenton/Owen Counties), Lexington (Fayette County), Elizabethtown (Hardin County), and Louisville (Jefferson/Oldham Counties).
-  Louisville-Jefferson County Veterans Treatment Court Program: Website: <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/countyattorney/services/veteranstreatment-court-program>
 - ☑ Veterans Treatment Court Inquiry Form: <https://louisvilleky.gov/county-attorney/forms/veterans-treatment-court-inquiry-form>
 - ☑ Louisville Veterans Treatment Court Liaison: <http://louisvilleprosecutor.com/veterans-treatment-court/>

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CAVAET:

-  Consistent with statutory mandates, OVLS will meet the requirements of the KRS by providing veterans with resources and guidance to address their legal questions or issues.
-  As an Office in a State Agency, OVLS will not facilitate representation for veterans with claims against the USVA, DOD, or other state government entities.

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