

532.080 Persistent felony offender sentencing.

- (1) When a defendant is found to be a persistent felony offender, the jury, in lieu of the sentence of imprisonment assessed under KRS 532.060 for the crime of which the defendant presently stands convicted, shall fix a sentence of imprisonment as authorized by subsection (5) or (6) of this section. When a defendant is charged with being a persistent felony offender, the determination of whether or not he or she is such an offender and the punishment to be imposed pursuant to subsection (5) or (6) of this section shall be determined in a separate proceeding from that proceeding which resulted in his or her last conviction. The proceeding shall be conducted before the court sitting with the jury that found the defendant guilty of his or her most recent offense unless the court for good cause discharges that jury and impanels a new jury for that purpose.
- (2) A persistent felony offender in the second degree is a person who is more than twenty-one (21) years of age and who stands convicted of a felony after having been convicted of one (1) previous felony. As used in this provision, a previous felony conviction is a conviction of a felony in this state or conviction of a crime in any other jurisdiction provided:
 - (a) That a sentence to a term of imprisonment of one (1) year or more or a sentence to death was imposed therefor; and
 - (b) That the offender was over the age of eighteen (18) years at the time the offense was committed; and
 - (c) That the offender:
 1. Completed service of the sentence imposed on the previous felony conviction within five (5) years prior to the date of commission of the felony for which he or she now stands convicted;
 2. Was on probation, parole, postincarceration supervision, conditional discharge, conditional release, furlough, appeal bond, or any other form of legal release from any of the previous felony convictions at the time of commission of the felony for which he or she now stands convicted;
 3. Was discharged from probation, parole, postincarceration supervision, conditional discharge, conditional release, or any other form of legal release on any of the previous felony convictions within five (5) years prior to the date of commission of the felony for which he or she now stands convicted;
 4. Was in custody from the previous felony conviction at the time of commission of the felony for which he or she now stands convicted; or
 5. Had escaped from custody while serving any of the previous felony convictions at the time of commission of the felony for which he or she now stands convicted.
- (3) A persistent felony offender in the first degree is a person who is more than twenty-one (21) years of age and who stands convicted of a felony after having been convicted of two (2) or more felonies, or one (1) or more felony sex crimes against a minor as defined in KRS 17.500, and now stands convicted of any one (1) or more felonies. As used in this provision, a previous felony conviction is a conviction of a

felony in this state or conviction of a crime in any other jurisdiction provided:

- (a) That a sentence to a term of imprisonment of one (1) year or more or a sentence to death was imposed therefor;
- (b) That the offender was over the age of eighteen (18) years at the time the offense was committed; and
- (c) That the offender:
 - 1. Completed service of the sentence imposed on any of the previous felony convictions within five (5) years prior to the date of the commission of the felony for which he or she now stands convicted;
 - 2. Was on probation, parole, postincarceration supervision, conditional discharge, conditional release, furlough, appeal bond, or any other form of legal release from any of the previous felony convictions at the time of commission of the felony for which he or she now stands convicted;
 - 3. Was discharged from probation, parole, postincarceration supervision, conditional discharge, conditional release, or any other form of legal release on any of the previous felony convictions within five (5) years prior to the date of commission of the felony for which he or she now stands convicted;
 - 4. Was in custody from the previous felony conviction at the time of commission of the felony for which he or she now stands convicted; or
 - 5. Had escaped from custody while serving any of the previous felony convictions at the time of commission of the felony for which he or she now stands convicted.
- (4) For the purpose of determining whether a person has two (2) or more previous felony convictions, two (2) or more convictions of crime for which that person served concurrent or uninterrupted consecutive terms of imprisonment shall be deemed to be only one (1) conviction, unless one (1) of the convictions was for an offense committed while that person was imprisoned.
- (5) A person who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the second degree shall be sentenced to an indeterminate term of imprisonment pursuant to the sentencing provisions of KRS 532.060(2) for the next highest degree than the offense for which convicted. A person who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the second degree shall not be eligible for probation, shock probation, or conditional discharge, unless all offenses for which the person stands convicted are Class D felony offenses which do not involve a violent act against a person, in which case probation, shock probation, or conditional discharge may be granted. A violent offender who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the second degree shall not be eligible for parole except as provided in KRS 439.3401.
- (6) A person who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the first degree shall be sentenced to imprisonment as follows:
 - (a) If the offense for which he or she presently stands convicted is a Class A or Class B felony, or if the person was previously convicted of one (1) or more sex crimes committed against a minor as defined in KRS 17.500 and presently stands convicted of a subsequent sex crime, a persistent felony offender in the

first degree shall be sentenced to an indeterminate term of imprisonment, the maximum of which shall not be less than twenty (20) years nor more than fifty (50) years, or life imprisonment, or life imprisonment without parole for twenty-five (25) years for a sex crime committed against a minor;

- (b) If the offense for which he or she presently stands convicted is a Class C or Class D felony, a persistent felony offender in the first degree shall be sentenced to an indeterminate term of imprisonment, the maximum of which shall not be less than ten (10) years nor more than twenty (20) years.
- (7) A person who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the first degree shall not be eligible for probation, shock probation, or conditional discharge, unless all offenses for which the person stands convicted are Class D felony offenses which do not involve a violent act against a person or a sex crime as that term is defined in KRS 17.500, in which case, probation, shock probation, or conditional discharge may be granted. If the offense the person presently stands convicted of is a Class A, B, or C felony, the person shall not be eligible for parole until the person has served a minimum term of incarceration of not less than ten (10) years, unless another sentencing scheme applies. A violent offender who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the first degree shall not be eligible for parole except as provided in KRS 439.3401.
- (8) A conviction, plea of guilty, or Alford plea under KRS 218A.1415 shall not trigger the application of this section, regardless of the number or type of prior felony convictions that may have been entered against the defendant. A conviction, plea of guilty, or Alford plea under KRS 218A.1415 may be used as a prior felony offense allowing this section to be applied if he or she is subsequently convicted of a different felony offense.
- (9) The provisions of this section amended by 1994 Ky. Acts ch. 396, sec. 11, shall be retroactive.
- (10) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, this section shall not apply to a person convicted of a criminal offense if the penalty for that offense was increased from a misdemeanor to a felony, or from a lower felony classification to a higher felony classification, because the conviction constituted a second or subsequent violation of that offense.
- (b) This subsection shall not prohibit the application of this section to a person convicted of:
 - 1. A felony offense arising out of KRS 189A.010, 189A.090, 506.140, 508.032, 508.130, or 510.015; or
 - 2. Any other felony offense if the penalty was not enhanced to a higher level because the Commonwealth elected to prosecute the person as a first-time violator of that offense.

Effective: July 15, 2026

History: Amended 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 67, sec. 15, effective July 15, 2026. -- Amended 2012 Ky. Acts ch. 156, sec. 19, effective July 12, 2012. -- Amended 2011 Ky. Acts ch. 2, sec. 26, effective June 8, 2011. -- Amended 2006 Ky. Acts ch. 182, sec. 45, effective July 12, 2006. -- Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 606, sec. 76, effective July 15, 1998. -- Amended 1996 Ky. Acts ch. 247, sec. 1, effective April 4, 1996. --

Amended 1994 Ky. Acts ch. 396, sec. 11, effective July 15, 1994. -- Amended 1982 Ky. Acts ch. 241, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1982. -- Amended 1978 Ky. Acts ch. 78, sec. 6, effective June 17, 1978. -- Amended 1976 (1st Extra. Sess.) Ky. Acts ch. 14, sec. 474, effective January 2, 1978. -- Amended 1976 Ky. Acts ch. 180, sec. 1, effective June 19, 1976. -- Created 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 406, sec. 280, effective January 1, 1975.