

202A.121 Right to counsel -- Fee -- Attorney's right to access court records.

- (1) Upon the appearance of the person detained pursuant to KRS 202A.041 or upon the filing of a petition pursuant to KRS 202A.051 or 202A.0811, the court shall appoint an attorney to represent the respondent. The attorney shall be paid a fee fixed by the court not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500), which shall be paid by the Finance and Administration Cabinet.
- (2) The appointment and representation under subsection (1) of this section shall continue unless the respondent retains private counsel.
- (3) The appointed attorney shall be immediately notified by the clerk of the allegations in the petition and the date and purpose of the preliminary hearing.
- (4) Notwithstanding KRS 202A.091, an attorney appointed by the court or retained by the respondent shall be given access to the court records relating to the petition.

Effective: July 15, 2026

History: Amended 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 136, sec. 9, effective July 15, 2026. -- Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 158, sec. 26, effective June 29, 2017. -- Created 1982 Ky. Acts ch. 445, sec. 8, effective July 1, 1982.

Legislative Research Commission Note. This section was enacted in 1982 Acts, Chapter 445, which contains the following language in Section 45 of that Act: "This Act shall become effective on July 1, 1982." The Ky. Constitution, in Section 55, requires that a reason be set forth for the emergency. However, no reason is set forth in this Act. The effective date for 1982 Acts with no emergency provision is July 15, 1982.