

524.040 Intimidating a participant in the legal process.

- (1) A person is guilty of intimidating a participant in the legal process when, by use of harassing communications as described in KRS 525.080, physical force, or a threat directed to a person he or she believes to be a participant in the legal process, he or she:
 - (a) Influences, or attempts to influence, the testimony, vote, decision, or opinion of that person;
 - (b) Induces, or attempts to induce, that person to avoid legal process summoning him or her to testify;
 - (c) Induces, or attempts to induce, that person to absent himself or herself from an official proceeding to which he has been legally summoned;
 - (d) Induces, or attempts to induce, that person to withhold a record, document, or other object from an official proceeding;
 - (e) Induces, or attempts to induce, that person to alter, destroy, mutilate, or conceal an object with intent to impair the object's integrity or availability for use in an official proceeding; or
 - (f) Hinders, delays, or prevents the communication to a law enforcement officer or judge of information relating to the possible commission of an offense or a violation of conditions of probation, parole or release pending judicial proceedings.
- (2) For purposes of this section:
 - (a) An official proceeding need not be pending or about to be instituted at the time of the offense; and
 - (b) The testimony, record, document, or other object need not be admissible in evidence or free of a claim of privilege.
- (3) Intimidating a participant in the legal process is a Class D felony.
- (4) In order for a person to be convicted of a violation of this section, the act against a participant in the legal process or the immediate family of a participant in the legal process shall be related to the performance of a duty or role played by the participant in the legal process.

Effective: July 15, 2024

History: Amended 2024 Ky. Acts ch. 174, sec. 41, effective July 15, 2024. -- Amended 2002 Ky. Acts ch. 251, sec. 2, effective July 15, 2002. -- Amended 1986 Ky. Acts ch. 212, sec. 5, effective July 15, 1986. -- Created 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 406, sec. 203, effective January 1, 1975.