

510.160 Grooming a minor.

- (1) A person is guilty of grooming a minor when:
 - (a) Being eighteen (18) years of age or older, he or she engages in grooming behavior directed at a minor who is under fourteen (14) years old with the intent to entice, coerce, solicit, or induce the minor to engage in sexual conduct with the person or another person; or
 - (b) Being a person in a position of authority or position of special trust, as those terms are defined in KRS 532.045, he or she engages in grooming behavior directed at a minor who is under eighteen (18) years old with the intent to:
 1. Entice, coerce, solicit, or induce the minor to engage in sexual conduct with the person or another person; or
 2. Develop an intimate or secretive relationship with the minor.
- (2)
 - (a) For a violation of subsection (1)(a) of this section, grooming a minor is a Class A misdemeanor unless the minor is under twelve (12) years old, in which case it is a Class D felony.
 - (b) For a violation of subsection (1)(b) of this section, grooming a minor is a Class D felony unless the minor is under twelve (12) years old, in which case it is a Class C felony.
 - (c) Any sentence imposed on a defendant under this section shall run concurrently with any sentence imposed for an offense specified in this chapter arising from the same course of conduct with the same victim.
- (3) This section shall not be construed to prevent a person from communicating with a minor for any lawful or legitimate purpose, including but not limited to:
 - (a) Teaching curriculum on human sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases as provided in KRS 158.1415;
 - (b) The use of a traceable communication system by a school district employee or volunteer as provided in KRS 160.145;
 - (c) The diagnosis or treatment of a minor by a health care provider in a health care facility;
 - (d) Communicating with a minor to determine if the minor is dependent, neglected, or abused;
 - (e) Age-appropriate conversations about puberty and human sexuality with a minor by the minor's sibling or parent or guardian; and
 - (f) Any conversation with a minor that is part of a person's job-related or volunteer-related duties.

Effective: July 15, 2026

History: Created 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 65, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2026.