

**519.022 Impeding a first responder. (Effective July 15, 2026)**

- (1) As used in this section:
  - (a) "First responder" has the same meaning as in KRS 507.070, and includes a probation or parole officer, university police officer, and airport police officer; and
  - (b) "Harass" means to intentionally engage in a course of conduct directed at a first responder which causes or is intended to cause substantial emotional distress in the first responder and serves no legitimate purpose.
- (2) A person is guilty of impeding a first responder when, after receiving a verbal warning not to approach from another person he or she knows or reasonably should know is a first responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of his or her duties, the person knowingly violates the verbal warning and approaches or remains within twenty-five (25) feet of the first responder with the intent to:
  - (a) Impede or interfere with the first responder's ability to perform the first responder's duties;
  - (b) Threaten the first responder with physical harm; or
  - (c) Harass the first responder.
- (3) Impeding a first responder is a:
  - (a) Class B misdemeanor for the first offense;
  - (b) Class A misdemeanor for a second or third offense; and
  - (c) Class D felony for each subsequent offense.

**Effective:** July 15, 2026

**History:** Created 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 96, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2026.