

can a pre 2011 sex offender in ky go to a park



Based on Kentucky state law and court rulings, a pre-2011 sex offender may be allowed to visit a public park, but this is complicated by later laws and court decisions. The rules are not straightforward and depend on several factors, including the offender's specific conviction date and supervision status. [\[link\]](#)

Key legal points

- **Kentucky Supreme Court ruling:** In 2011, the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled that certain sex offender residency restrictions could not be applied retroactively to offenders who committed their crimes before the laws were enacted. This ruling effectively limited how later restrictions could be enforced on pre-2011 offenders.
- **State law on parks:** A Kentucky state law (KRS 17.545) bans registered sex offenders from being on, loitering within 1,000 feet of, or working within 1,000 feet of a publicly owned or leased playground without advance written permission from the governing body. However, this law has been affected by the 2011 Supreme Court ruling.
- **Non-retroactivity of park laws:** A key provision of the state law explicitly states that the prohibition against being on the grounds of a publicly leased playground "shall not operate retroactively". This would suggest that pre-2011 registrants are not subject to the park ban.
- **Supervision conditions:** A pre-2011 offender's ability to visit a park can be restricted by the conditions of their probation or parole. These conditions are determined by the sentencing judge or parole board and can include restrictions on being in areas where children are present. [\[link\]](#)

Considerations for the individual

A pre-2011 sex offender in Kentucky should consider the following before attempting to visit a public park:

- **Consult supervision officer:** The most important step is for the offender to consult with their probation or parole officer. Restrictions related to their park access are most likely to come from the conditions of their supervised release.
- **Check with local authorities:** The offender should check for any local ordinances that might place further restrictions on sex offenders. While the state law is non-retroactive regarding parks, local rules could still apply, especially if the offender is still under supervision.
- **Avoid playgrounds:** Given the legal complexity, the safest approach would be to avoid all publicly owned playgrounds. The ban on being on or near a playground is more explicitly stated in state law than a general park ban. [\[link\]](#)

Disclaimer: This information is for informational purposes only and is not legal advice. The laws surrounding sex offender registration can be complex and are subject to change. For accurate and personalized legal advice, it is crucial to consult with a qualified attorney.