



## Administrative Office of the Courts

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## Kentucky Judicial Oath of Office: Guide for Elected and Appointed Justices and Judges

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For the 2022 Election Year, Terms Begin Monday, January 2, 2023

### Oath of Office Language

#### Kentucky Constitution: Section 228

I do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and be faithful and true to the Commonwealth of Kentucky so long as I continue a citizen thereof, and that I will faithfully execute, to the best of my ability, the office of .... according to law; and I do further solemnly swear (or affirm) that since the adoption of the present Constitution, I, being a citizen of this State, have not fought a duel with deadly weapons within this State nor out of it, nor have I sent or accepted a challenge to fight a duel with deadly weapons, nor have I acted as second in carrying a challenge, nor aided or assisted any person thus offending, so help me God.

### Persons Authorized to Administer Official Oaths

#### KRS 62.020:

(1) The official oath of any officer may be administered by:

- (a) Any active, retired, or senior status justice or judge of the Court of Justice or active, retired, or senior status federal judge, with Kentucky jurisdiction;
- (b) Any member of the General Assembly may administer an oath statewide; or
- (c) Any county judge/executive, notary public, clerk of a court, or justice of the peace, within his district or county.

### Date on Which Justice/Judge Legally Takes Office

#### Kentucky Constitution, Section 119:

"All terms commence on the first Monday in January next succeeding the regular election for the office."

For the 2022 election year, terms begin **Monday, January 2, 2023**.

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## **Date by Which Justice/Judge Needs to be Sworn In**

### **KRS 62.010(2):**

“Each person elected to an office shall take the oath of office **on or before the day the term of office to which he has been elected begins**, except in years where the first Monday in January falls upon January 1. In years where the first Monday falls upon January 1, no penalty shall be applied to any officer that fails to take the oath of office, so long as the oath of office is taken within thirty (30) days of the first Monday of January.”

For the 2022 election year, the oath must be taken **on or before January 2, 2023**.

## **Written Certification of Oath**

### **KRS 62.020(2):**

The person administering the oath must file a written certification. Some use their own form, and some may use form AOC-016 when the person administering the oath is a judge and form AOC-016-A when the person administering the oath is a circuit clerk.

Forms AOC-016 and AOC-016-A can be downloaded from the Kentucky Court of Justice website under Resources for New Judges at [kycourts.gov/Courts/Pages/Resources-for-New-Judges.aspx](http://kycourts.gov/Courts/Pages/Resources-for-New-Judges.aspx).

## **Who Files Certification of Oath**

### **KRS 62.020(2):**

The person **administering the oath (not the person taking the oath)** has the statutory responsibility of filing the written certification.

## **Where to File Certification of Oath**

### **KRS 62.020(2):**

(a)(3): In the Secretary of State's office if the district or circuit contains more than one county.

(d): In the County Clerk's office if the district or circuit contains only one county.

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