



**Andy Beshear**  
GOVERNOR

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET

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June 5, 2026

**Via E-Mail and First Class Mail**

Hon. Jeremy M. Mattox  
Chief Circuit Judge  
Woodford County Courthouse Annex  
130 Court St.  
Versailles, KY 40383  
[jeremymattox@kycourts.net](mailto:jeremymattox@kycourts.net)

Hon. Kelli Kearney  
Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney  
120 North Hamilton Street  
Georgetown, KY 40324  
[kkearney@prosecutors.ky.gov](mailto:kkearney@prosecutors.ky.gov)

Hon. Josh Miller  
Directing Attorney  
Capital Trial Section  
163 W Short Street  
Suite 555  
Lexington, KY 40507  
[joshua.miller@ky.gov](mailto:joshua.miller@ky.gov)

Re: *Commonwealth v. Ronald Exantus*, Woodford Circuit Court, 15-CR-00090, Judgment entered April 24, 2018

Dear Judge Mattox, Commonwealth's Attorney Kearney, and Mr. Miller:

On April 24, 2018, this Court entered a judgment against current state inmate Ronald Exantus reflecting the jury's verdict that Mr. Exantus was not guilty by reason of mental insanity on one count of murder and one count of 1<sup>st</sup> degree burglary, and was guilty but mentally ill on two counts of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assault and one count of 4<sup>th</sup> degree assault. The Court added a line to the Administrative Office of the Courts' standard judgement form that stated, "[p]rior to [the Defendant's] release, KRS 504.030 shall apply."

KRS 504.030 provides that, [w]hen a defendant is found not guilty by reason of insanity, the court shall conduct an involuntary hospitalization proceeding under KRS Chapter 202A or 202B.” It also permits a court to order detention for a period of ten days to allow for proceedings to be initiated.

Because of the jury’s split verdict on Mr. Exantus’s mental capacity, this case presents the unique situation where the Court did not immediately proceed to an involuntary hospitalization proceeding. The Department does not have authority to initiate proceedings under KRS Chapter 202A or 202B, nor to maintain custody beyond the expiration of a valid sentence. In other words, unless a detainer or other lawful authority is lodged prior to Mr. Exantus’s release date, the Department will be required to release him in accordance with applicable law.

Based on current sentence calculations, Mr. Exantus has an anticipated release date of July 29, 2026. We are writing to provide you with notice and sufficient time to initiate involuntary hospitalization proceedings consistent with the April 24, 2018, judgment, if you wish to do so.

Please direct any questions or correspondence regarding this matter to my office. I can be reached at 502-234-4919 or [ann.blaylock@ky.gov](mailto:ann.blaylock@ky.gov).

Sincerely,



Ann Blaylock, Esq.  
General Counsel/Executive Director  
Office of Legal Services  
Justice & Public Safety Cabinet