

# CAFCASS PATHWAY FOR PLACEMENT AND ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

## STAGE 1

### Receipt and Allocation (weeks 1–2)

Upon request from the court, Cafcass allocates one of the following:

- a Children’s Guardian (if care proceedings are concurrent, the existing Children’s Guardian will usually be appointed in placement)
- a Children and Family Reporter (this will not be often – occasionally for specific welfare issues).



As a Children’s Guardian, appoint a child’s solicitor if one has not already been appointed. Where there are concurrent proceedings in placement following care this should usually be the same solicitor.

See page 10 of Cafcass Adoption Guidance.



Begin analysis and enquiries for decision-making at the first hearing/directions.

## STAGE 2

### Case Planning in Placement Proceedings (weeks 2–6)

Carry out an initial analysis, with a specific focus on:

- the child’s needs, wishes and feelings remaining central to all current and future arrangements
- ensuring all the potential options for permanence which might be in the interests of the child have been explored
- the child’s need for contact with any member of their birth family or relevant others
- the quality of the local authority assessment of the child’s support needs if placed for adoption.



In partnership with the child’s solicitor, ensure the child (subject to age and understanding) understands the process and their views inform the court.



Where necessary, schedule the appointment of experts as early in the timetable as possible.

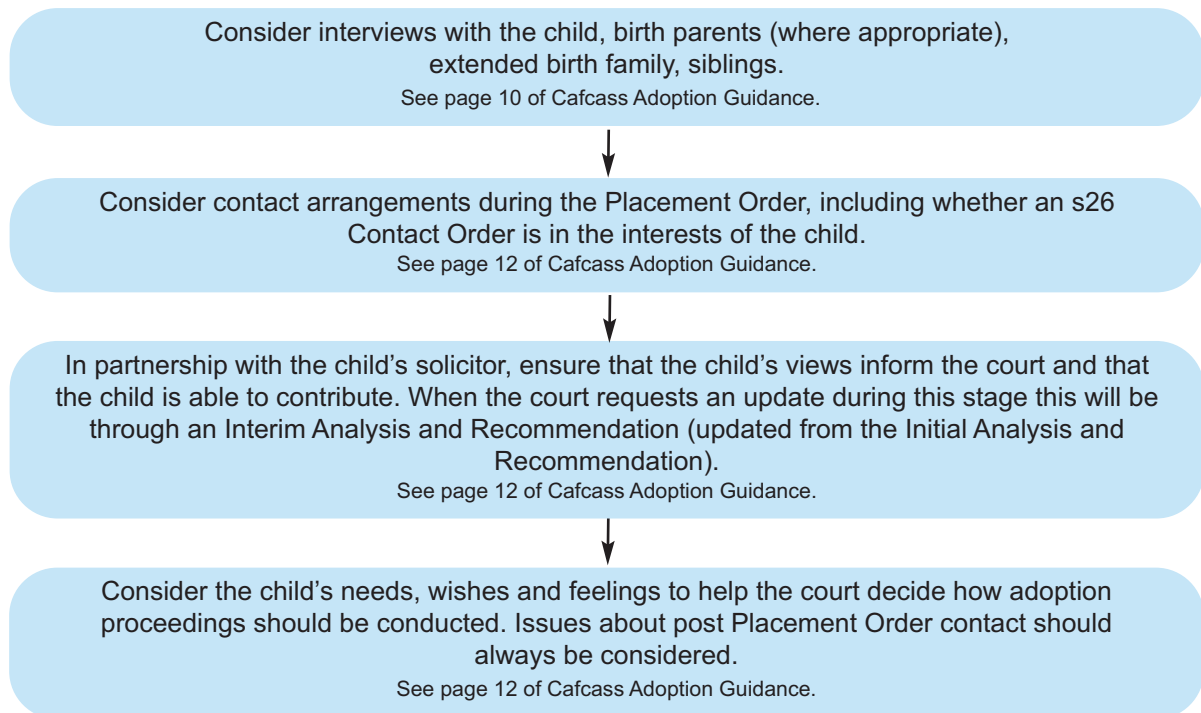
See page 11 of Cafcass Adoption Guidance.



Submit a Cafcass Initial Analysis and Recommendation to court and share with all parties. The timing of the submission is at the court’s discretion.

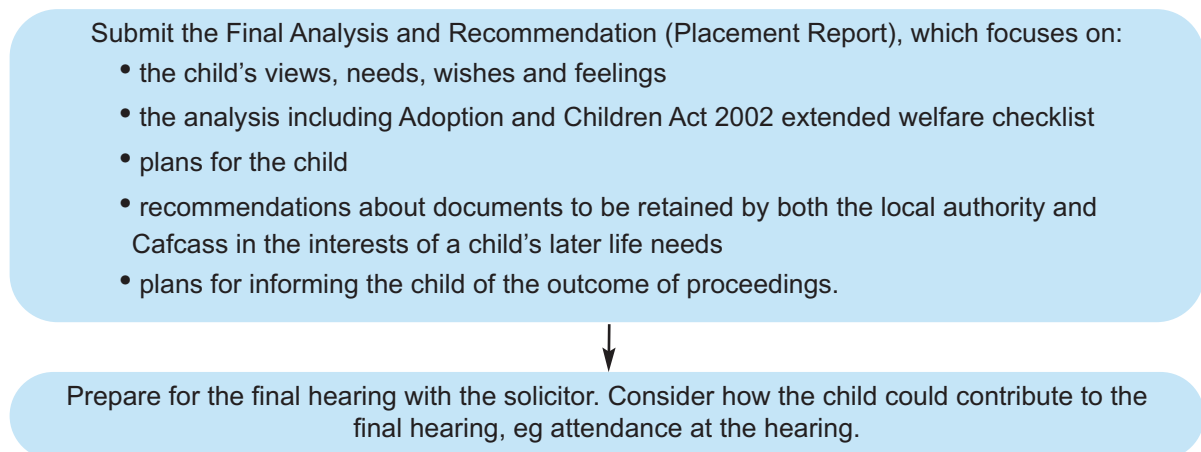
## STAGE 3

### Wider Assessment in Placement Proceedings

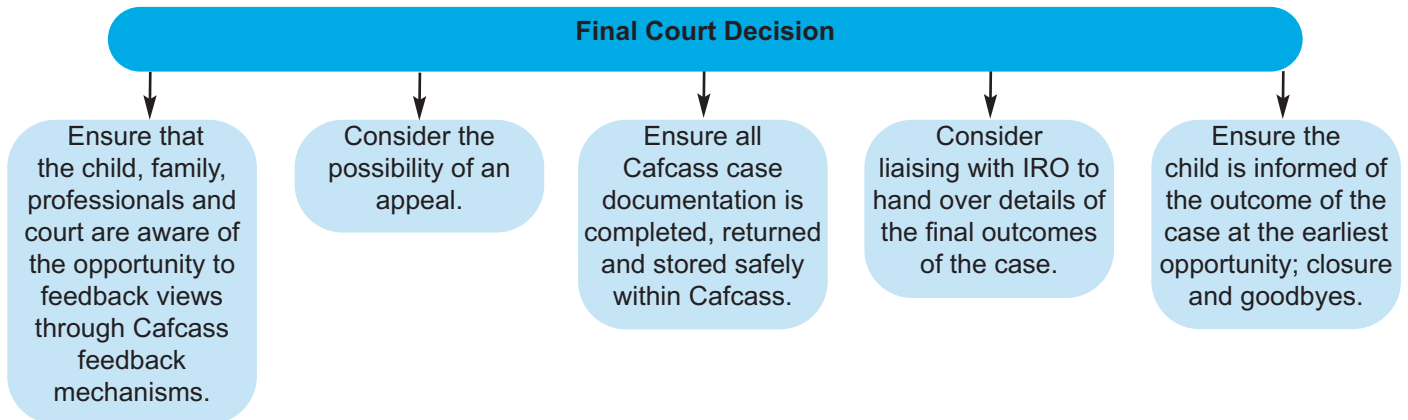


## STAGE 4

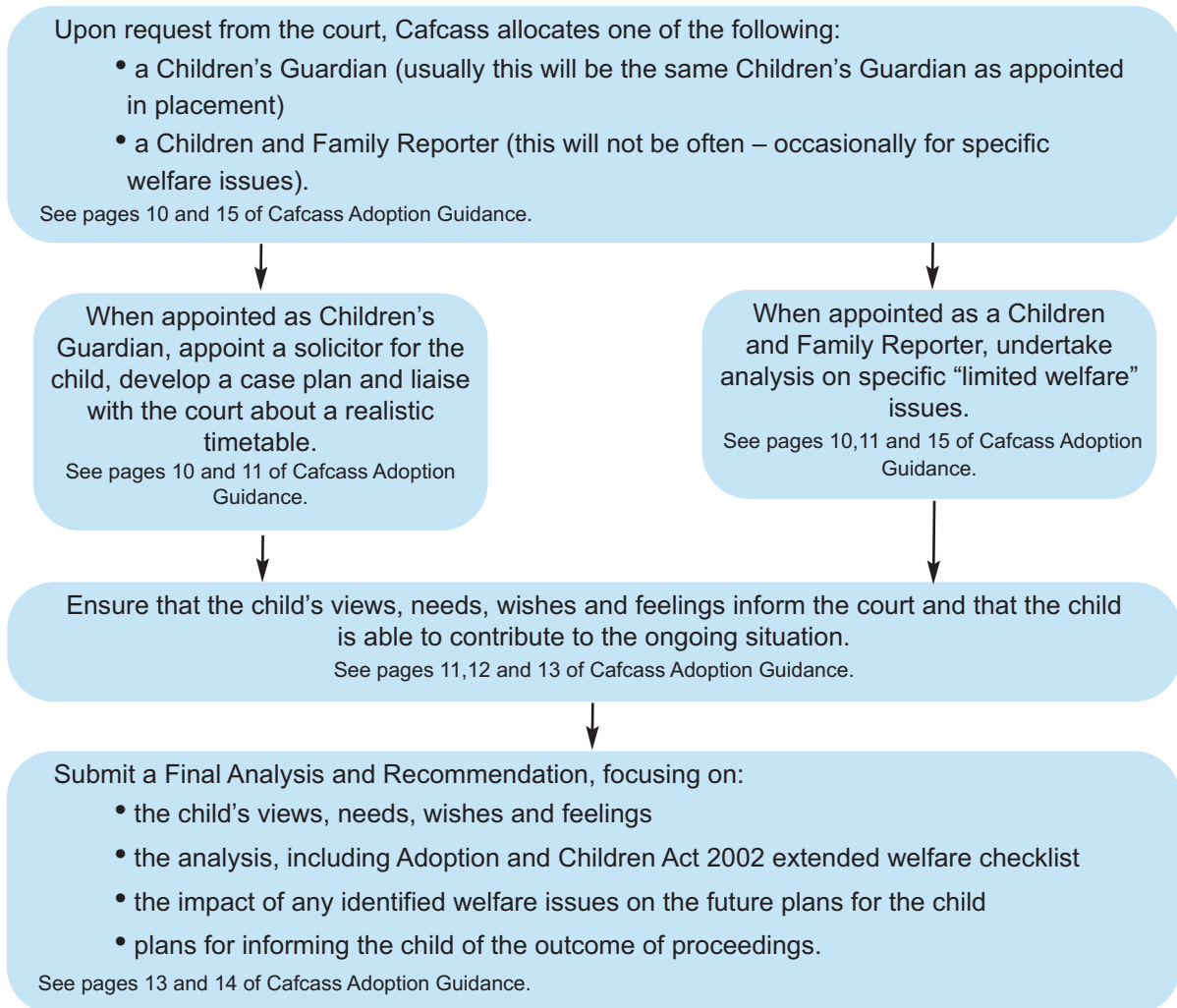
### Final Placement Hearing



## STAGE 5 Court Decision/Placement Case Conclusion



## STAGE 6 Adoption Proceedings



## STAGE 7 Court Decision/Adoption Case Conclusion

