

Annex to 16 April 2010 Cafcass Board paper - Commissioning & Partnerships Update

Examples of types of Child Contact Services

Level 1 - Indirect Contact Support

Management of indirect contact between a child and the non-resident parent (or other family member). Encouraging appropriate next steps.

Planning the service with the CAFCASS practitioner, frequency, nature and means of communication. Recording this plan.

Acting as the intermediary, receiving, checking and delivering communication. Delivery of services over a period not longer than 12 months.

Recording all contacts and actions taken. Recording the child's responses, and the parents' responses, and providing this as planned to the CAFCASS practitioner in the agreed format.

Where required to do so by CAFCASS the author of any report will attend court to give evidence. This is likely to be very infrequently required at this level of service.

Level 1 - Individual Work with children

Offering support to children in disputed proceedings, including counselling, mentoring or peer mentoring. Encouraging appropriate next steps.

Planning the service with the CAFCASS practitioner, frequency, venue and nature. Recording this plan.

Delivery of services over a period not longer than 6 months.

Recording all contacts and actions taken. Recording the child's responses. Providing this to the CAFCASS practitioner in the agreed format.

Where required to do so by CAFCASS the author of any report will attend court to give evidence. This is likely to be very infrequently required at this level of service.

Level 1 - Escorted Contact

Supervision of contact between child and non-resident family member with individual family. away from contact centre, in public space or home.

Planning the service with the CAFCASS practitioner, frequency, venue and nature. Recording this plan.

Delivery of services over a period not longer than 3 months.

Recording all contacts and actions taken. Recording the child's responses, and providing this as planned to the CAFCASS practitioner in the agreed format.

Where required to do so by CAFCASS the author of any report will attend court to give evidence. This is likely to be very infrequently required at this level of service.

Level 2 - Contact Intervention – observed and reported

Supervision of contact between child and family member(s). To ensure safe contact, establish what is working and what could be improved, and to work with the child and parents to make changes. Establishing safe and appropriate next steps. Can also be used only to monitor contact while awaiting resolution of risk issues.

Planning the service with the CAFCASS practitioner: frequency, venue and nature. Recording this plan.

Delivery of services over a period not longer than 6 months.

Recording all contacts and actions taken. Recording the child's responses, and providing this as planned to the CAFCASS practitioner in the agreed format.

Where required to do so by CAFCASS the author of any report will attend court to give evidence. This is likely to be infrequently required at this level of service.

Level 3 - Contact Supervision – social work intervention and report

Supervision of contact in situations of high conflict.

An independent assessment of contact following meetings with parents, the child, and observation of contact. The assessment to include reading of relevant papers, contact with other involved organisations and sufficient meetings to test and assess the viability of proposals.

Planning the service with the CAFCASS practitioner. Recording this plan.

Delivery of services over a period not longer than 6 months.

Recording all contacts and actions taken.

Providing a full report covering all aspects of the welfare checklist.

Where required to do so by CAFCASS the author of any report will attend court to give evidence. This is likely to be quite frequently required at this level of service but is likely to be on only one occasion for each report.