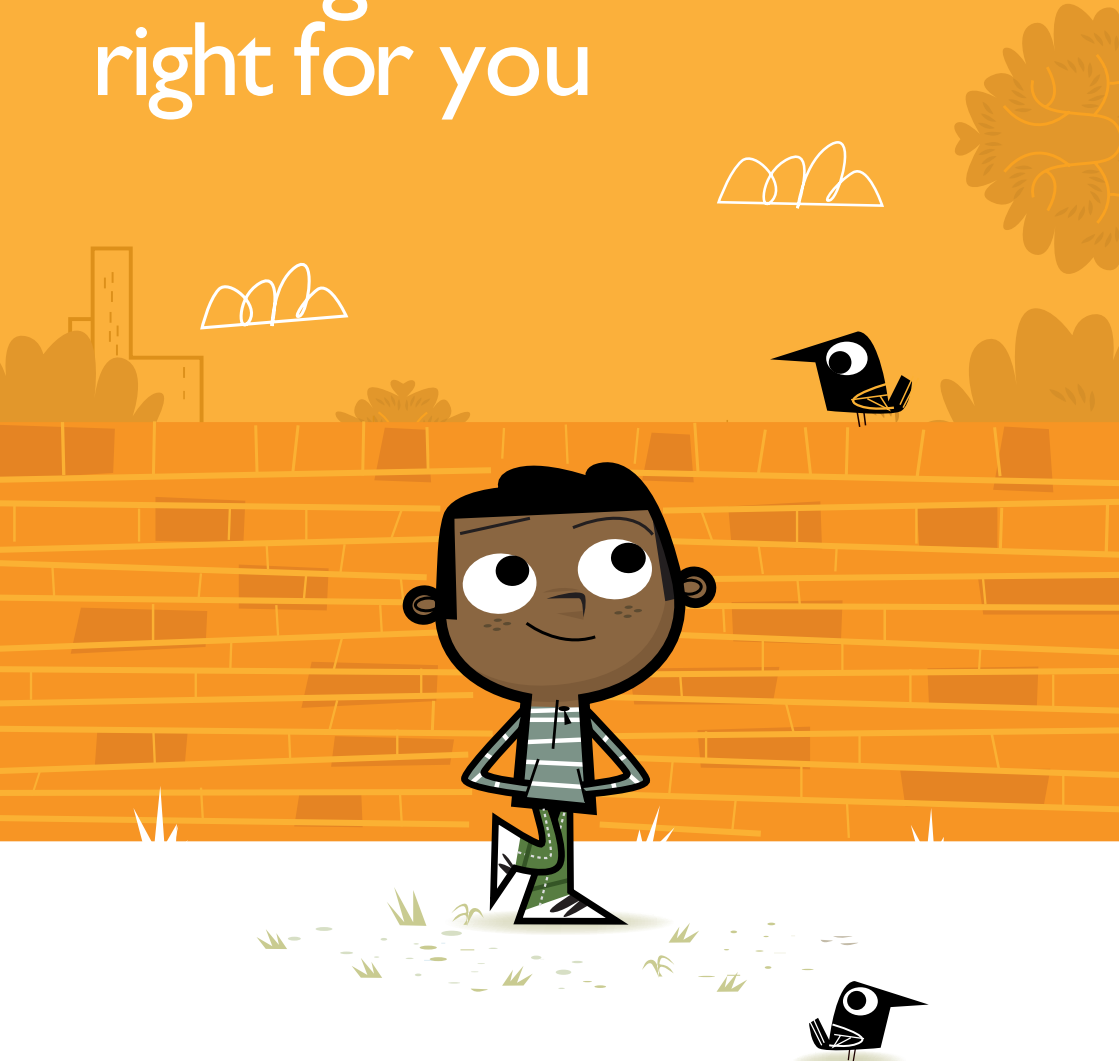


finding what's right for you

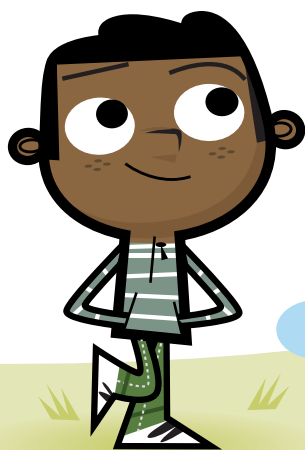


Here to help you

Some families find it hard to agree on what is best for their children, especially when parents split up or live apart. Remember, what's happening is *not* your fault.

To help make things better, they may ask a family court to try to help. A family court is very different to a criminal court where people go when they might have done something wrong.

The judge (or sometimes it may be a magistrate) in the family court listens to everyone's views and helps with important decisions – like where you should live, who you should see and who should look after you.



Sometimes, the judge may ask a **Cafcass worker** to meet with you to talk about what you would like to happen and to make sure the family court hears what you have to say.

You may also meet a **family support worker** who can help you talk about your needs, wishes and feelings.

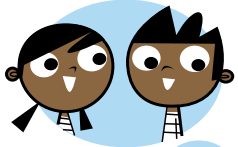
But Cafcass workers don't meet all the children they write to because sometimes families can agree on what is best for their children by themselves.



Who I See



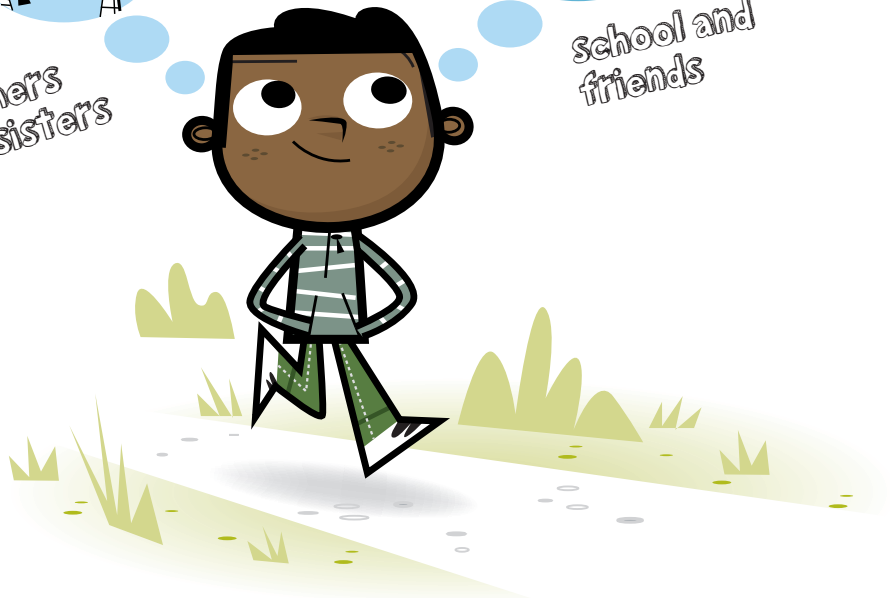
where I live



brothers and sisters



school and friends

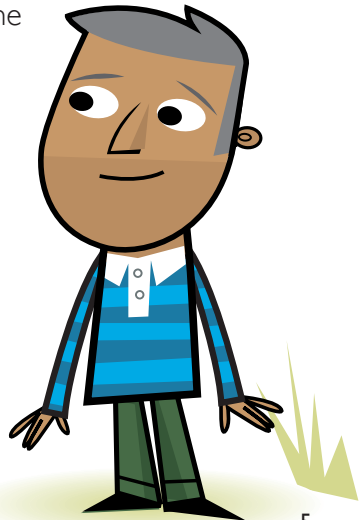


How does a Cafcass worker help?

If you meet a Cafcass worker they will:

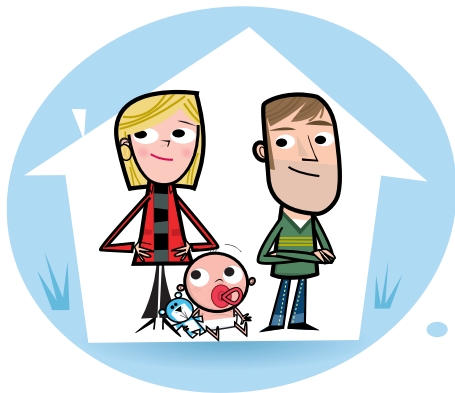
- listen carefully to what you think and how you feel about everything.
- talk to other people like your parents, family and teachers.
- help you understand what happens in a family court.
- work with other organisations who can help and support you and your family.
- write a report for the family court on how you feel and what you want to happen, which your parents can also read.
- tell the judge what your needs, wishes and feelings are and what they think will be best for you.

The judge in the family court will try to help everyone agree. But if they can't agree, the judge will decide what is best for you, after listening to what everyone has to say.



Do you want some advice from other children?

Sometimes it helps to hear from other children who have been through the same thing as you. You can write to one of our specially trained young mentors and ask them a question or just talk about how you're feeling. You can do this by logging onto a fun web space called MyCafcass (<https://my.cafcass.gov.uk>) and going to the Hear4U section. You can find out more about MyCafcass on the backpage of this leaflet.

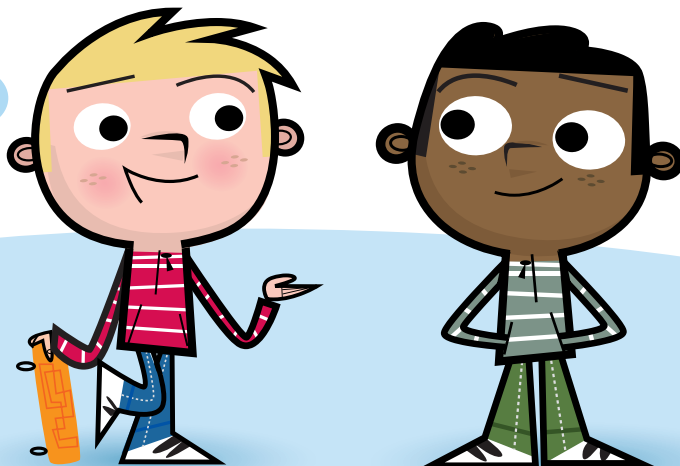


ContactPoint – Keeping you safe

From Winter 2009, Cafcass will include some information about you on a computer system called ContactPoint.

ContactPoint will help to keep children and young people, up to the age of 18, safe by allowing the professionals who work with them to share information.

Ask your Cafcass worker if you have any questions about this.



Are you happy with Cafcass?

Tell us what you think about your Cafcass worker or Cafcass – what we did well and what we can do better. You can also make a complaint if there is something you are not happy about.

You can do this by:

- speaking to your Cafcass worker
- calling 01823 340 205
- emailing feedback@cafcass.gov.uk
- using the **FREEPOST** form attached to this leaflet



One of the best ways of telling us what you think is by logging onto <https://my.cafcass.gov.uk> and completing our **HearNow** questionnaire.



Tell us what you think

Please tell us what you think about your Cafcass worker and Cafcass. Your comments are important because they will help us to improve the way we work with other children like you.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Cafcass worker:

Tick the ones that are most true for you.

1) Do you think that your Cafcass worker:

- definitely knows what you think and how you feel
- sort of knows what you think and how you feel
- has no idea what you think and how you feel
- not sure

2) Do you think your Cafcass worker:

- made things better for you
- did not do anything
- made things worse for you
- not sure

3) Do you think that Cafcass workers are:

- great
- OK
- not much good
- not sure

4) Has this leaflet helped you to understand more about Cafcass and the family courts?

- yes
- no
- not sure

Anything else you want to tell us?

.....

.....

.....

Are you happy for us to get in touch with you?

- yes no

If yes, what's the best way to contact you?

- phone email letter

Now just fold the form, seal it and put it in a postbox.

thanks!

Tear here

moisten here



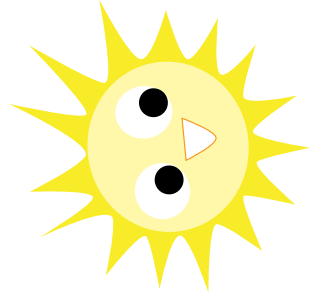
We respect your rights

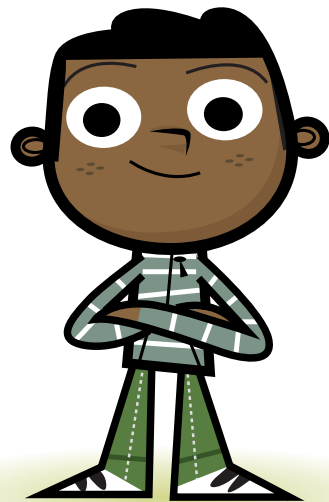
Cafcass supports the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, which means that we respect your rights. Here are some of your rights when there is a case about you at court:

- you have the right to say if you want to visit the court or meet the judge or magistrate. Some children want to do this and some children don't. Talk to the Cafcass worker about what you want.
- you have the right to know what has been written about you. Speak to the Cafcass worker about this.
- you have the right to be told what is happening by the Cafcass worker.
- you have the right to know the decision made about you by the judge or magistrate.
- you have the right to make a complaint if you are not happy about anything we have said or done. Find out more on pages 8 and 9 of this leaflet.



Freepost RRYR-ULKC-GYRS
Feedback@Cafcass
6 Mendip House
High Street
TAUNTON
TA1 3SX





mycafcass is your own fun web space full of all the things you need to know about families changing. Log on by typing **https://my.cafcass.gov.uk** and then enter your username and password. You can ask your Cafcass worker for your username and password.

Username:

.....

Password:

.....



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Cafcass

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London

SW1P 3BT

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