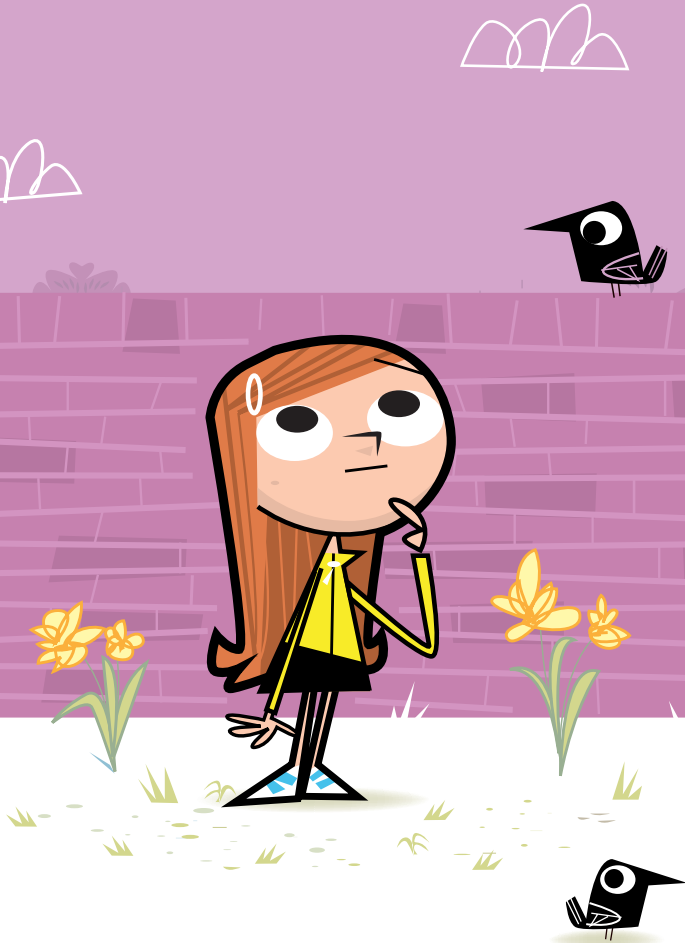


finding what's right for you

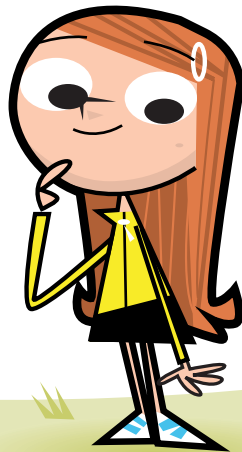


Here to help you

Sometimes families have problems that they can't sort out by themselves. Remember, what's happening is *not* your fault.

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

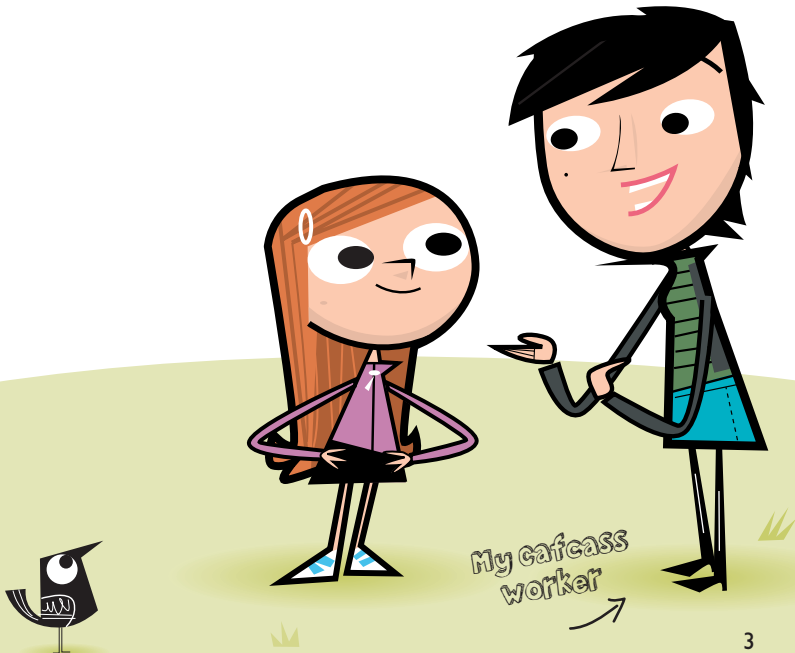
The judge (or sometimes it may be a magistrate) in the family court listens to everyone's views and makes important decisions – like where you should live, who you should see and who should look after you.



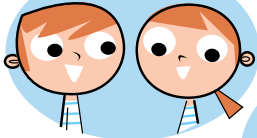
Because children don't usually go to court, it's important that there's someone there to explain your views and how you feel. That's where a **Cafcass worker** can help. They will meet with you and spend time getting to know you. They will help you understand what is happening in court.

You can talk openly to your Cafcass worker about what you'd like to happen, and they'll make sure that 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.



brothers
and sisters



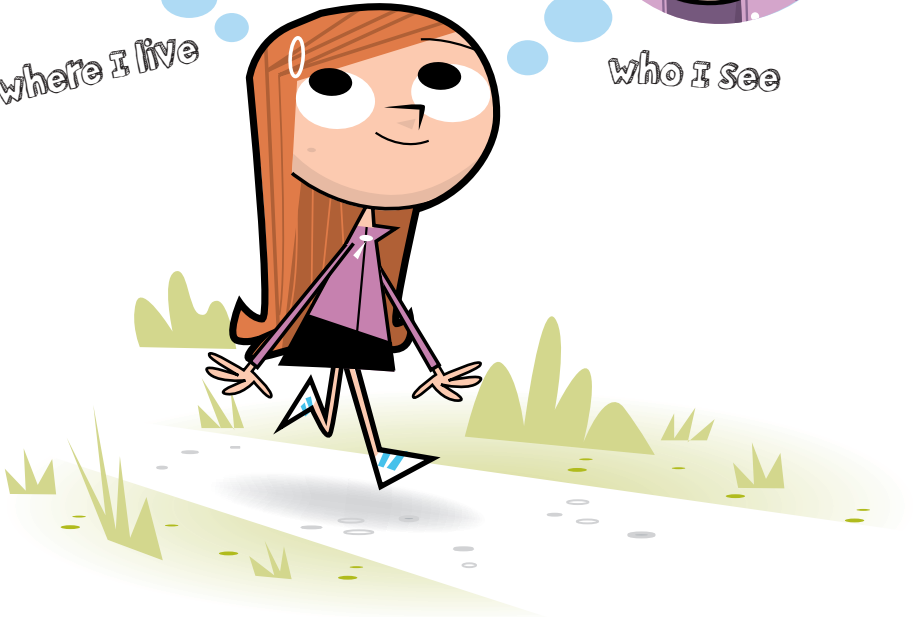
school and friends



where I live



who I see



How does a Cafcass worker help?

Your Cafcass worker will:

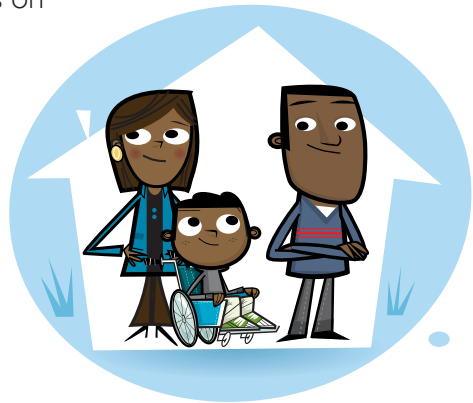
- listen carefully to what you think and how you feel about everything.
- help you understand what happens in a family court.
- talk to other people like your parents, family and social worker, and sometimes your teachers and other people.
- work with other organisations who can help and support you and your family.
- help you see people you care about.
- arrange for someone called a solicitor to speak for you in court. The solicitor works for children and will tell the court what you have said you want to happen.
- write a report for the family court on what you think should 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 listen carefully to what everyone has to say and will then decide what is best for you. Your Cafcass worker will help you through this.



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.

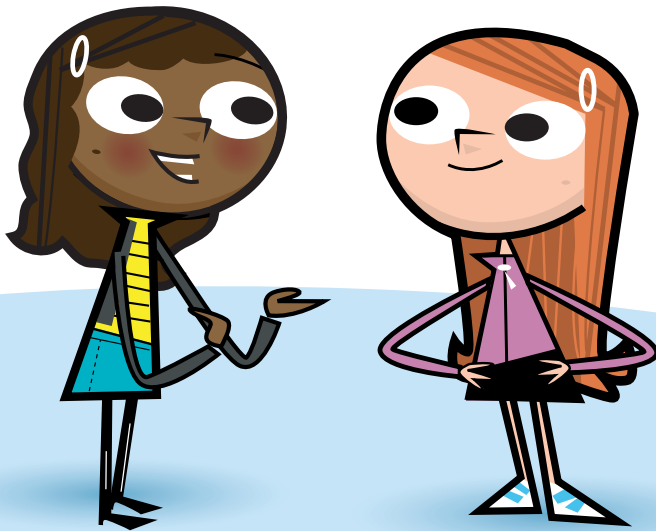


ContactPoint – Keeping you safe

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?

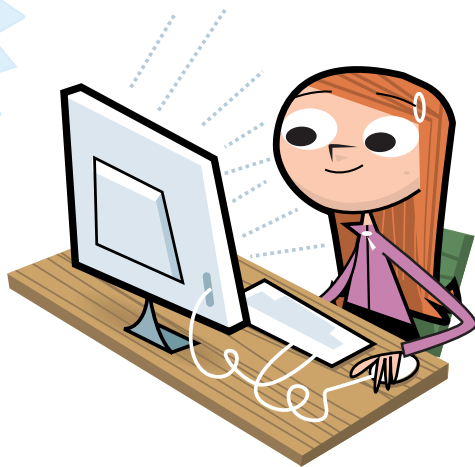
Tell us what you think about your Cafcass worker or Cafcass – what we did well and what we can do better. You can also make a complaint if there is something you are not happy about.

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 me
 - 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!

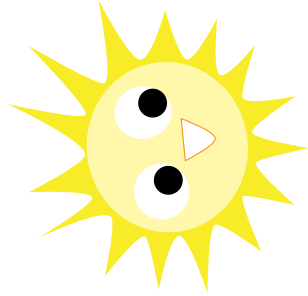
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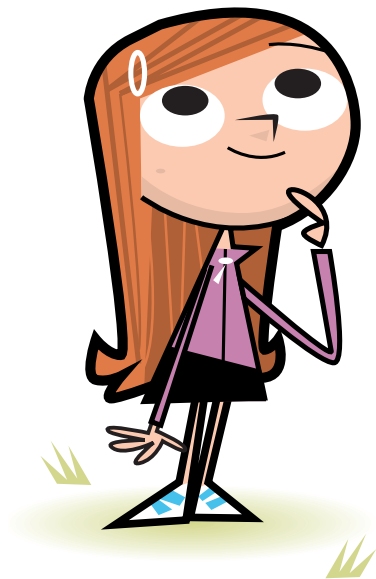
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Freepost RRYR-ULKC-GYRS
Feedback@Cafcass
6 Mendip House
High Street
TAUNTON
TA1 3SX





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 see a Cafcass worker, who will listen to you about what you want to happen.
- you have the right to have your own solicitor, who will speak up for you in court about this.
- 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 or your solicitor about what you want.
- you have the right to know what has been written about you. Speak to the Cafcass worker or your solicitor about this.
- you have the right to be told what is happening with your case by both the Cafcass worker and your solicitor.
- you have the right to know the decision made about you by the judge or magistrate. The Cafcass worker will make sure someone tells you what happened as soon as possible.
- 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.

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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