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| https://intranet.cafcass.net/departments/Documents/Communications/Cafcass%20Style%20Guide/Cafcass_Logo_2014_Vector_web.jpgUse the below information to consider the suitability of a case for the CPPP. The CPPP can be recommended at any stage in the life of a case following the FHDRA and the filing of a Safeguarding Letter. Where the suitability criteria is met, the CPPP can be ordered by the court under Section 7 (or as an addendum), FAO or under Rule 16.4.  The CPPP provides structured intervention sessions to families within proceedings, aimed at promoting change, improving communication between parents and reducing the emotional harm experienced by children subject to entrenched parental conflict.  The essential criteria and case indicators for CPPP cases are set out below. After completing the tick box exercise and having considered the typologies of conflict set out in the [Harmful Conflict Guide](https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/download/10191/), if you are still not sure about the suitability of a case you can contact [National Improvement Service (NIS) support](mailto:NISSupport@cafcass.gov.uk) to book a consultation appointment to discuss the case or discuss it with the [CPPP manager lead](https://intranet.cafcass.net/departments/Documents/Policy/Private%20law/Cafcass%20Positive%20Parenting%20Programme/List%20of%20Manager%20leads%20on%20CPPP.docx) in your area.  **Please note:** the CPPP can be considered in cases where the child is of any age. | |
| **Essential criteria** | **Tick box** |
| Parents fulfil criteria for medium to high harmful conflict, where the conflict is entrenched but not at the highest level of intractability or at the lowest level where the parents should be signposted to mediation and other community services not requiring Cafcass involvement. |  |
| The case must meet the criteria for a Section 7, Family Assistance Order or Rule 16.4 case ([click here to access section 7 threshold document](https://intranet.cafcass.net/departments/Documents/NIS/Consultations/CPPP/DRAFT%20Cafcass%20section%207%20threshold%20v3.docx)). For Section 7 cases this can be identified at the FHDRA following WTFH advice in the Safeguarding Letter and/or the DR work at court. CPPP suitability could also be identified during the course of the Cafcass Section 7 process. It may be appropriate in this situation for an addendum to be recommended and reported back to court via the CPPP report template. The use of the CPPP intervention should be agreed in collaboration with the court and included in the court order (as with rule 16.4 cases).  For Rule 16.4 cases the threshold regarding complexity and the agreement that the criteria for 16.4 needs to be met first. |  |
| Parents have already attended a Separated Parents Information Programme (SPIP) or are agreeable to doing so. If this is not possible within timescales consideration to be given on how else this work can be completed, for example accessing on-line parenting educative programmes. |  |
| Mediation has either been attempted already or is deemed unsuitable. |  |
| Initial risk assessment must have already been completed with harmful parental conflict being identified as the most significant presenting risk to the child. |  |
| Other risks raised in the case have been sufficiently assessed and managed e.g. substance misuse, mental health difficulties or allegations of domestic abuse. |  |
| Both parents have expressed a willingness to engage in the programme (having been provided with the relevant [CPPP information leaflet](https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/download/10520/)) as an attempt to conclude their child’s proceedings. |  |
| Expectation that parents can or would consider being in the same room and work jointly. |  |
| Consultation with the relevant area CPPP Lead Manager to confirm suitability and availability of a trained CPPP practitioner to be allocated or to co-work the case. |  |
| **Case indicators** | **Tick box** |
| The focus of conflict has shifted into more personal conflict, rather than issue based. See Weingarten and Leas (1987) typology. |  |
| Domestic abuse as situational couple Violence (SCV) can be evident as a feature of the conflict. The Domestic Abuse Pathway should be consulted for further guidance regarding risk and impact. See CIAF and consider using the tool to distinguishing parental conflict and domestic abuse. |  |
| Parental focus on ‘winning’ or adult conflict, rather than being child centred. |  |
| Intrinsic negative views, attitudes, feelings and beliefs towards each other. |  |
| Repeat returns to court for enforcement applications. |  |
| Repeated allegations of abuse that appear to be unsubstantiated (if this indicates alienating behaviours or mental health factors, additional intervention may need to be considered). |  |
| There is some evidence of alienating behaviours, but parents still express a willingness to engage in change/ intervention work. |  |
| There are elements of criticism, contempt, defensiveness or stonewalling but parents still express a willingness to engage in a change programme. |  |
| If feelings give way to helplessness, rage and revenge, the case might not be suitable for a joint meeting. Individual meetings can be used to further assess suitability. Consideration can also be given to carrying out the joint meeting on a ‘shuttle’ basis, keeping the parents separate and moving between meetings. |  |
| Concerns have been expressed by other professionals (e.g. school) regarding the impact of parental conflict on the child. |  |

**Analysis:**

Provide a summary of your overview analysis, taking account of the above responses.

**Yes:**

If a case is deemed appropriate for CPPP, [click here](https://intranet.cafcass.net/departments/nis/Pages/LearningandDevelopment/CPPP-material-for-practitioners.aspx) for further **guidance** on the CPPP referral process and for the CPPP handbook. The case will need to be allocated to a trained CPPP practitioner.

**No:**

If no, outline rationale and alternative way forward.

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| **Rationale and further comments:** |

***References:***

If you would like to see any of the items listed, send the 5 or 6-digit item numbers (in bold) to library@cafcass.gov.uk (for internal use only)

***161326.*** *Cantwell, B. (2007). Battling parents: are they getting the right treatment? Family Law, 37(8), 743-748.*

***300737****. Weeks, G., & Treat, S. (2001). Couples in treatment: techniques and approaches for effective practice. (2nd Ed.). New York, NY: Brunner-Routledge.*

***Important****: This tool has been developed from existing evidence base and research, however is not a validated tool. The tool should be used to inform the assessment and analysis and is not a replacement for the professional judgement of the practitioner.*

FLOW CHART

WTFH- Safeguarding Letter (identify harmful conflict as case factor and need for section 7/16.4). Advice CPPP as intervention.

FHDRA-advice confirmed by court FCA following DR

Court order for section 7 with CPPP if:

* criteria met for section 7 and harmful conflict is the most significant case factor (follow Suitability Criteria tool).
* No further assessment is required, but intervention to promote co-parenting and reduce parental conflict is deemed most appropriate option.
* Parents agree to CPPP.
* SPIP has been attended or directed.
* Court provides 12 weeks for filing CPPP report.
* If a section 7 report does not meet the threshold then CPPP cannot be ordered and the parties need to be signposted to mediation and other community services.
* A section 7 report recommends an addendum is needed following a robust assessment and CPPP is identified as an intervention option.

Court to order rule 16.4 if:

* Criteria is met for 16.4 due to the complexity of the case and need to make the child a party to the proceedings (see Suitability Criteria tool).
* Parents agree to CPPP
* SPIP has been attended or directed.
* Court provides 12 weeks for filing a CPPP report.