

Dear

I work for Cafcass and my name is

Sometimes families have problems that they can't sort out on their own. At Cafcass, we help adults and the family courts decide what is best for young people and help to make sure they are kept safe.

If you can get to a computer, why not go to our website: www.cafcass.gov.uk to find out more about our work? You can also find out more information about how Cafcass helps children and young people on the other side of this letter.

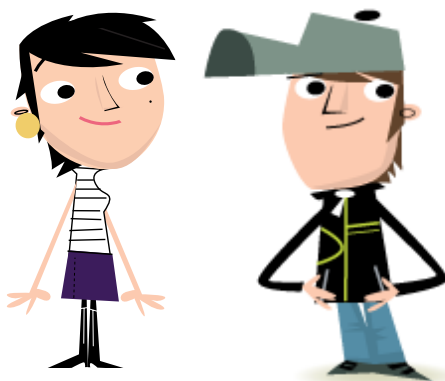
If you want to tell us what you think about Cafcass or any of the work we do with you and your family, you can talk to me or my manager, or email customerfeedback@cafcass.gov.uk

If you urgently need help or need to talk to someone, please call Childline free on **0800 1111**.

I will be in contact again soon to find out how you are and what your wishes and feelings are.

Best wishes

Cafcass Children's Guardian



Keeping you safe

Sometimes families have problems that they can't sort out by themselves and people like your family and friends or social workers may worry about your safety and how you are. They want to make sure that you have somewhere to live where you'll be safe and looked after.

To try to make things better, they may ask a judge in a family court to help. A family court is very different to a criminal court where people go when they may have done something wrong. The judge in the family court listens to what everyone has to say and it's their job to make these big, important decisions for you and your family. Remember, none of this is your fault.

Because young people usually don't go to court, it's important that there's someone there to tell the judge your views and how you feel. This is where your Cafcass Children's Guardian can help. Your Children's Guardian is different from your social worker and is there to represent you in court. You can talk to your Children's Guardian about what you'd like to happen, and they'll make sure that the family court hears what you have to say.

The Children's Guardian can help by:

- working with other people, like your social worker to make sure you are safe and well-looked after.
- talking with you to find out what you think and how you feel about everything.
- speaking to other people who care about you like your parents and carers, family, social worker and sometimes other people such as your teachers.
- telling the judge what your wishes and feelings are and what they think will be best for you.
- trying to make life better for you.

Your Children's Guardian will write a report to explain what you, and the people who care about you, have said. It will include everything about you – your needs, wishes, and feelings, why the local authority is worried about you, and what they think will be best for you. The report will be shown to other people involved, including your parents or carers. If you are worried about this, make sure you tell your Children's Guardian so they can help. Through it all you can choose to have your say but no one should put pressure on you.

The judge will listen carefully to what everyone has to say, including your views, and then make a decision on what's best for you. After the meeting at court, your Children's Guardian will make sure someone explains what the court decided and how it affects you.