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**Your ref: CAF 15-163**  
**Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-163**

Tel 0300 456 4000

29 September 2015

## **Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 18 September 2015. You made the following requests for information:

I have a copy of the 2005 version of the Domestic Violence Toolkit, which I am aware is now out of date, as there was a later 2007 version at least.

I wish to reference some of the ideas collected in this document and would appreciate a copy of the latest version, or the replacement document for the policies and standards that Cafcass apply in its work.

Please see below for our response.

[Tools for evidence informed practice](#) can be found on our website under section B. Practitioners should use appropriate tools, matched to the identified needs in the case, when assessing the impact of domestic abuse. Relevant tools include:

- Domestic violence – what we need to know (for use in interview to establish the nature, how recent, frequency and duration of domestic violence)
- SafeLives DASH Guidance and SafeLives DASH Tool (for use in interview if domestic violence is current to establish if referral to MARAC is required)
- Barnados Domestic Violence Risk Identification Matrix (for use post interview to analyse the level of risk / need and protective / vulnerability factors; includes Faith and Culture Safeguarding checklist)
- Safe Contact Indicator (for use during of post interview to analyse whether contact is safe / in child's best interests)
- Tool for assessing whether Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme is appropriate

Our staff also have regard to:

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





- The relevant sections of the [Operating Framework](#), such as the section on Risk Assessment on page 17 and Work After the First Hearing (WAFH) on page 27;
- The Cafcass [Child Protection Policy](#);
- [Practice Direction 12J](#), which sets out what the Family Court should do in any case in which it is alleged or admitted that the child or a party has experienced domestic abuse.

We hope that you feel your question has been answered effectively. If you are unhappy with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may ask for an internal review to be undertaken. If you are dissatisfied with the way the internal review is handled or with the final decision made at that review about the information released, you are free to contact the Information Commissioner's office ([www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)):

**Post**

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Wycliffe House, Water Lane,  
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**Fax**

01625 524 510

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0303 123 1113

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[casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

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Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive

