



Cafcass National Office  
3rd Floor  
21 Bloomsbury Street  
London  
WC1B 3HF

Your ref: CAF 15-3  
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-3

Tel 0300 456 4000

20<sup>th</sup> January 2015

## Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your questions; your letter was originally sent to our old office address and it has taken some time to be forwarded to our current office, where it was received on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Please see below for your requests for information and our responses:

### 1. Who is responsible for looking into cases of emotional abuse?

It is the local authority that has statutory responsibility for investigating safeguarding concerns, which is recognised as including emotional harm or abuse, as well as physical harm or abuse and neglect. Please contact your local authority should you wish to receive more information on their procedures.

Cafcass can only become involved and complete work on a case at the request of the court. When Cafcass is involved in an open case we can include concerns about emotional abuse in our overall assessment of the case where appropriate.

### 2. Who is responsible for making the final decision that a child has been emotionally abused?

The final decisions in cases are made by the court. Ultimately it is for the court to determine the weight to be given to any evidence presented and to reach a decision. If there are ongoing court proceedings, parties should raise any concerns they have in court, so that the court has all the information before coming to a decision on the case. If parties have concerns regarding a court's final decision these should be raised with the court, or legal advice sought.

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





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**

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

**Fax**

01625 524 510

**Tel**

0303 123 1113

**E-mail**

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

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

[Governance@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Governance@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk)

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive



Cafcass, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, is a non-departmental body of the Ministry of Justice  
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