



Cafcass National Office  
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London  
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Your ref: CAF 15-7  
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-7

Tel 0300 456 4000

18<sup>th</sup> February 2015

## Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015. You made the following requests for information:

I hereby do request information under the Freedom of Information Act, to be supplied with details that indicate that in fact, CAFCASS does not come down on the side of anyone. By means of details, I list as follows:

- 1) Training undertaken that demonstrates this approach. Please list what training and when and how such training teaches CAFCASS to come down on one side or the other.
- 2) If no training given, please supply a list of what 'side' CAFCASS favours and how it comes to that conclusion

Please see below for our response.

- 1) Cafcass does not provide training which relates to taking the side of either party. All training for our staff underpins our focus on being child-centred and looking at the issues from the perspective of the child.

In particular, Cafcass provides induction training events within a practitioner's first year, which include Casework, Risk and Harm, and Interviewing and Communication Skills. These teach our Family Court Advisers how to use the correct tools (such as [Wishes and Feelings](#)) and skills with both parents and children to ensure they focus on all the relevant issues (including the impact of the proceedings on the child within the context of their age and stage of development) in order to achieve the best possible outcome for the children involved.

- 2) As above, the work of Cafcass focuses on being child centred. Please see our [Operating Framework](#); relevant sections which set out our work with children and parents include paragraphs 1.16 – 1.20.

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,  
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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

Cafcass

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

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive

