



Cafcass National Office
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21 Bloomsbury Street
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WC1B 3HF

Your ref: CAF 15-94
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-94

Tel 0300 456 4000

29 May 2015

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 18 May 2015. You made the following request for information:

can i please be given the rules covering precisely what a McKenzie friend can and cannot do during a pre hearing cafcass dispute resolution hearing. apparently McKenzie friends are aloud to ask questions, interrogate the other party and give witness testimony when one of your officers decides that they have the powered to dispense with the rules. my question referred to the role of a McKenzie friend during the prehearing conflict resolution session with the cafcass officer. and i suppose i am asking for the guidelines/ policies that your cafcass workers must adhere to when running one of these sessions.

Please see below for our response.

Cafcass has no policy or procedure on this issue but we are guided by the [Family Procedure Rules](#) (see Rule 12.75) and the [president's guidance](#) and we advise our practitioners to deal with requests for third party attendance at meeting on a case by case basis using professional judgement.

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):

Post
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane,
Wilmslow,

Fax
01625 524 510
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0303 123 1113

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





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Yours sincerely,

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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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