



Cafcass National Office  
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Your ref: CAF 15-145  
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-145

Tel 0300 456 4000

18 August 2015

## Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 10 August 2015. You made the following requests for information:

1. I would like to establish what policy of mediation CAFCAS implements for child involvement in the mediation process ie. is it Child Inclusive Mediation, Child Focused Mediation, Direct Consultation with Children, or is it the case that you do not advocate any one particular model.

As set out on our [website](#), Cafcass does not provide mediation services and directs those to considering it to [mediation providers across the UK](#).

Cafcass does not have a policy on child involvement in mediation; this is a matter for the Family Mediation Council and the mediators' professional bodies.

2. I would also like to establish if you ask for parents consent prior to talking to the child. Is one or both parents consent required before you talk to the child.

Cafcass practitioners work within family court proceedings when they are appointed by the court to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child in a case. The Cafcass [Operating Framework](#) sections 1.16 – 1.22 sets out how Cafcass works with children and young people.

The court will expect the practitioner to speak with the subject children where appropriate, for which one parent's consent is required; if consent is not given, an order may be sought from the court.

3. What is your policy on the entry age for children into mediation?

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





As above, Cafcass does not have a policy on this issue as this is a matter for the Family Mediation Council and the mediators professional bodies.

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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Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

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Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive



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