



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

Your ref: CAF 15-152
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-152

Tel 0300 456 4000

XX XX 2015

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 25 August 2015. You made the following requests for information:

- 1) [When was CAF/CASS operating framework last reviewed particularly section 4.19 about Parental Alienation.](#)

The full Cafcass Operating Framework is currently under review as part of our regular review process of Cafcass policies, ensuring that policies remain current and reflect continuing good practice.

The current Operating Framework was last updated in August 2014.

- 2) [Does CAF/CASS case worker recognise Parental Alienation as a one of reason for Child refusing to live with non-resident parent ?](#)

Cafcass understands and recognises the potential for implacable hostility by a party in high conflict private law cases. Section 4.19 of the [Operating Framework](#) makes reference to “implacable hostility” which may lead to “alienation” of a child from one parent, and sets out how we assess such issues in our cases. Our practitioners are aware of the potential for children to be influenced by parental views and will remain live to this issue throughout the progress of a case.

- 3) [Are case worker trained to identify Parental Alienation, when non-resident parent is rejected by the child ? If yes, Please provide details of such training , documents, medical research etc.](#)

Cafcass has a tool ([‘Impact of parental conflict tool’](#)) for use in direct work, as well as access to resources and new research via our in-house library service, to

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





assist practitioners in being able to assess the presence of implacable hostility in private law cases.

Training for practitioners does not specifically focus on implacable hostility as an issue, as every case is individual and depends on many factors including, but not limited to, the child's age, personality, stage of development, relationship with the parent, as well as the relationship between parents. All of our training revolves around being child centred, and taking into account risk factors, evidence-based assessments, and diversity issues. All practitioner recommendations are case specific and are based on their professional judgement of the child's welfare.

Implacable hostility will be assessed under Cafcass' framework of assessing the child's best interests, which includes application of the [welfare checklist](#). All Cafcass recommendations are based on professional judgement of how a child's welfare can best be promoted and safeguarded, and all recommendations are case specific. More information on Cafcass' assessments can be viewed from paragraphs 1.11 onwards of [Cafcass' Operating Framework](#), with direct references to implacable hostility as outlined above.

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,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Fax

01625 524 510

Tel

0303 123 1113

E-mail

casework@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

Governance@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive

