



Cafcass National Office
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Your ref: CAF 15-172
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-172

Tel 0300 456 4000

20 October 2015

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 6 October 2015. You made the following requests for information:

please could you forward to me the guidelines/criteria Cafcass use in deciding to recommend whether to add a partner as party to proceedings, regardless of whether they request this or not. I understand Cafcass cannot add someone as party, only recommend it to the court if they feel it is appropriate?

Please see below for our response.

Cafcass has no specific guidance on this issue as each case is unique and Cafcass officers make recommendations to the court as to what is in the best interests of each individual child in that specific case.

We are guided by the [Family Procedure Rules 2010 Practice Direction 16A Part 6, Rule 9.4\(c\)](#): *the officer must advise the court if the officer considers that the joining of a person as a party to the proceedings would be likely to safeguard the interests of the child.*

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):

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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