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Your ref: CAF 15-105
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-105

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12 June 2015

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 6 June 2015 which was received by our office on 8 June 2015. You made the following requests for information:

1. Does Cafcass provide this kind of life story work [the re-introductory work provided to children when the child and the absent parent haven't seen one another for a long time, and is intended to help the Child in understanding the situation and prepare the child for contact with the absent parent] in private law matters?

Child Contact Interventions (CCI) providers commissioned by Cafcass are not contracted to provide 'life story' work. CCI is not appropriate for the delivery of in depth life story work that should properly be undertaken by those with PR. Life Story work is primarily a public law intervention used to make sure that children and young people have an accurate record of their family background and history and has a wider remit than the preparation for contact work in CCI.

CCI providers are contracted to provide 'preparation for contact' if commissioned to do so by the allocated Cafcass practitioner. This work is described within the [Child Contact Interventions guidance](#) page 4 (implemented April 2015), a relevant section of which is set out below:

Preparation for Contact Session for Child/Children (Direct or Indirect)

In some cases the CAM (contact agreement meeting) will define some preparative work for adults and/or children to be undertaken before direct contact starts. It can be useful where a child has significant worries about contact, or if s/he has not seen the spending time with adult for a long time. Examples of positive preparation might be the use of photographs or a letter.

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





This is not to be confused with life story work or wishes and feelings work (CCI is not appropriate for the delivery of in depth life story work that should properly be undertaken by those with PR. Life Story work is primarily a public law intervention used to make sure that children and young people have an accurate record of their family background and history and has a wider remit than the preparation for contact work in CCI.)

Direct work with adults or children can be intensive and it may be appropriate for this direct work to be no more than an hour's duration at a time. Billing allows for this and the plan may be to complete the work in four one hour blocks rather than two blocks of two hours each.

A CCI package of intervention is for a maximum of 12 hours but can be shorter. Within the maximum 12 hours up to 4 hours of preparation for contact with children can be commissioned. Siblings may be seen together or separately.

Please see here for more information about the [CCI service](#).

2. [Can a Cafcass family court advisor recommend this to the Judge during some private law proceedings?](#)

The Cafcass practitioner is able to recommend the commissioning of a contracted CCI provider to work with the family and is able to choose from the menu of options as detailed in the [Child Contact Interventions guidance](#) (page 2). This work may include preparation for contact work as detailed above.

3. [If this work can be recommended is it policy that this work be organised by the Cafcass officer, and funded by Cafcass?](#)

Where they have been commissioned by Cafcass, CCIs are funded by Cafcass and may be delivered by Cafcass or a NACCC accredited partner organisation. If delivered by an accredited partner, Cafcass will complete a referral to enable this. For more information please see our website page detailing the [CCI service](#).

4. [Do Cafcass commission this work to an external agency?](#)

Cafcass practitioners may be able to complete the recommended interventions themselves, or they commission the work using a NACCC approved provider that is contracted with Cafcass; these providers can be seen in the [National Commissioning Team Directory](#).





5. If so which agency would be used by the Cafcass department based in Worcester, when the child also lives in the Worcester area?

For a list of all current Cafcass contracted CCI providers covering all areas of the country please see the [National Commissioning Team Directory](#).

6. Is it the case that Cafcass no longer provide this service to Children involved in private law proceedings?

Please see the response to question 1.

7. If so then when did Cafcass stop providing this service?

Please see the response to question1, and please note that Life Story work has never been within the CCI contract.

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):

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Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane,
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Yours sincerely,

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Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive

