



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

**Your ref: CAF 15-12**  
**Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-12**

Tel 0300 456 4000

11<sup>th</sup> February 2015

## **Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015. You made the following requests for information:

Who can only apply for Cafcass job? or anybody can apply?  
Do they need specific qualification or training before they work with the cases?  
If they do, how long does it normally take and what's involve in the training?

Please see below for our response. The following information relates to Cafcass employment of Family Court Advisers. If you were making your request in relation to a different Cafcass job, please let us know.

In order to apply to Cafcass for the role of Family Court Advisers, the applicant must be a qualified social worker registered with the HCPC and have a minimum of three year's post qualifying experience in social work with children and families at risk. Further information of qualifications required for all Cafcass Family Court Advisers can be found at this link under the heading 'Qualifications':  
<http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/cafcass-careers/our-roles/family-court-adviser.aspx> .  
Please see the job description and specification for more detail.

Further to experience in social work, our Family Court Advisers receive training while at Cafcass in order to assist with their continued professional development; as part of registration with the HCPC, all social workers on a biennial basis must provide evidence of their professional development.

- All social work staff are required to complete six core in-house training modules upon joining the organisation, which will be completed within the first 12 months:
  - Four of these training modules are delivered in a training environment with supported learning:
    - Risk and Harm in Cafcass;

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- Legal Context and Court Skills;
- Case Work Start to Finish;
- Interviewing Skills in Cafcass.
- Two are mandatory eLearning courses:
  - Basic Introduction to Private Law;
  - Starting Work as a Children's Guardian.
- Basic training is complemented by other training events available throughout the year for both social work and non-social work staff.
- Cafcass have an internal National Improvement Service (NIS) who run workshops across the country tailored to local training needs analysis.
- mySkills, an online eLearning platform, offers learning on a range of social work and non-social work topics.
- All FCAs have professional membership of The College of Social Work which provides them with professional development resources.

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,  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

**Fax**

01625 524 510

**Tel**

0303 123 1113

**E-mail**

[casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

[Governance@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Governance@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk)

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Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive

