



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

Your ref: CAF 16-31
Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-31

Tel 0300 456 4000

3 March 2016

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 2 March 2016. You made the following requests for information:

I would be grateful if you could provide any policy information you have available on the subject of Family Assistance Orders, including, but not limited to:

- Your Policy regarding the work which can be carried out under a Family Assistance Order;
- Any practice guidance regarding Family Assistance Orders.

This [Cafcass Operating Framework](#) index (page 70) briefly sets out information about Family Assistant Orders and how they relate to the work of Cafcass. Please see this copied below:

A Family Assistance Order (FAO) requires a Cafcass Officer or an officer from a local authority to advise, assist and (where appropriate) befriend any person named in the order.

If an FAO is made alongside a contact order, a Cafcass officer may also be directed to advise and assist on establishing, improving and maintaining a contact order.

If an FAO is made alongside other types of section 8 orders, the court can direct that the Cafcass officer must report to court on specified matters relating to the section 8 order and/or the FAO.

An FAO is a voluntary order, in that the court may not make the order without the consent of everyone (other than any child) named in the order.

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





Cafcass [guidance on Family Assistance Orders](#) can be found on our website. This sets out what an FAO means for Cafcass, when FAOs may be recommended by Cafcass, what casework consists of during an FAO, and action taken on conclusion of an FAO.

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

