



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

**Your ref: CAF 16-60**  
**Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-60**

Tel 0300 456 4000

21 April 2016

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

Thank you for your email of 19 April 2016. You made the following requests for information:

Does CAF/CASS use peer-reviewed academic research as a supporting factor or basis for Section 7 custody recommendations or is it simply based on the FCA's personal impressions of each case? If academic research is considered, please can you draw my attention to what research is considered in forming your recommendations?

Please see below for our response.

Reports are completed by Cafcass when ordered by the court under [Section 7 of the Children Act 1989](#) as part of work after the first hearing in private law cases. Please see the Cafcass [Operating Framework](#) (sections 4.19-4.24) which sets out what Cafcass practitioners should have regard to when working on a section 7 report. Cafcass practitioners also use a [standard form](#) of report which provides template headings for each subsection.

All Cafcass recommendations are based on professional judgement of how a child's welfare can best be promoted and safeguarded, with reference to the [Welfare Checklist](#), and all recommendations are case specific.

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)):

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





**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)

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  
Cafcass National Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3HF | DX Cafcass 310101 Bloomsbury 11