



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

**Your ref: CAF 16-107**  
**Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-107**

Tel 0300 456 4000

24 August 2016

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

Thank you for your email of 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016. You made the following requests for information:

1. Please, can you tell me who actually "invites/appoints" a Cafcass officer in Care Proceedings?

It is the court's role to appoint the children's guardian in care proceedings. Under section 41 of the Children's Act 1989 "the court shall appoint an officer of the Service for the child concerned unless satisfied that it is not necessary to do so in order to safeguard their interests." The court therefore requests Cafcass to provide an individual to act as the guardian, and Cafcass will allocate the case to a practitioner.

2. Are Cafcass officers 'chosen' or selected?

When an order is received from the court, the manager in the relevant team will allocate the case to a practitioner. Allocation takes into account the resources available within the team, and the decision is based on who is best able to take on the case at that time.

3. where do they come from? Are they based locally?

Cafcass is divided into 17 service areas across England, aligned with family courts. Generally, the area in which the child lives will be responsible for completing the work ordered by the court, and the practitioner will be based in that service area.

4. are they chosen at random?

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





Please see the answer at question 2.

5. Does anyone know in advance - who the officer will be?

Please see the answer at question 2.

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 (<https://ico.org.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)

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