



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

**Your ref: CAF 16-130**  
**Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-130**

Tel 0300 456 4000

29 September 2016

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

Thank you for your email of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016. You made the following requests for information:

**Could you please advise the number of safeguarding issues that CAF/CASS missed and wrongly suggest contact unsupervised.**

Please see below for our response.

Cafcass does not hold this data generically however please find below information relating to how Cafcass deals with safeguarding issues.

The role of Cafcass is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and we have a [Child Protection Policy](#) that sets out how we will respond to allegations of significant harm.

As part of our child protection responsibilities in private law cases, Cafcass provides a safeguarding assessment to the court regarding parties in family proceedings. This is completed in line with the arrangements set out in the [Child Arrangements Programme](#) (see paragraphs 13.1 – 13.8). The work to complete these 'Safeguarding Letters' is undertaken prior to first hearing in new private law cases. For information on the procedure to be followed by Cafcass practitioners, please see the Cafcass [Operating Framework](#) section 'Work to the first hearing' (paragraphs 4.3 – 4.16).

Cafcass practitioners are required to assess risk in two ways: when the court orders a risk assessment as part of a Section 7 report if it feels that there is some risk to any child subject to proceedings; and under [s16A](#) of the Children Act 1989 Cafcass practitioners are under a duty to undertake a risk assessment whenever they have cause to suspect a child subject to proceedings is at current risk of harm and to pass

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this information to the court. Please see section 2.40 – 2.42 of the Cafcass [Operating Framework](#); for more information please also see our [Child Protection Policy](#).

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)

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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