



**Your ref: CAF 16-141**  
**Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-141**

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

Tel 0300 456 4000

21 October 2016

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

Thank you for your email of 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016. You made the following requests for information:

[Can you clarify what a section 47 enquiry is?](#)

Section 47 enquiries are undertaken by local authorities and therefore Cafcass are not best placed to answer this question. However please find attached information relating to s47 referrals in section 3 of the child protection policy. [https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/media/272033/cafcass\\_child\\_protection\\_policy.pdf](https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/media/272033/cafcass_child_protection_policy.pdf)

[What is the threshold for a section 47 enquiry?](#)

See answer to question 1

[What would constitute as an initial assessment under the section 47 enquiry?](#)

See answer to question 1

[Could you clarify Cafcass' obligations should a safeguarding report be incomplete due not being able to interview one of the parents before a final hearing?](#)

For safeguarding letters (first hearing), if Cafcass has not been able to speak to a party before filing the safeguarding letter, we try to speak to them at court before the hearing. This is covered in 14.7 of the Child Arrangements Programme (PD12(B)). In s7 reports, if we have been ordered by the court to interview a parent to inform the report, and we have been unable to do so, we would be expected to inform the court of this.

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





Can you clarify how Cafcass respond to safeguarding issues such as:

- a. Concerns of being exposed to an intoxicated parent;
- b. The potential of being exposed to sexually explicit material;
- c. Staying overnight with a parent with mental instability who has history of suicidal attempts.

Our child protection policy sets out the action we should take in response to safeguarding concerns. This document can be found in the answer to question 1.

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

