



Your ref: CAF 16-150
Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-150

Cafcass National Office
3rd Floor
21 Bloomsbury Street
London
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Tel 0300 456 4000

8 December 2016

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 25 November 2016. You made the following requests for information:

Could you advise what in these normal circumstances would be the reasonable access rights of a Father in UK?

Please see below for our response.

Cafcass does not have guidance on the amount of contact that is appropriate for parents. Cafcass can only undertake work with a family when directed to do so by the family court. We are unable to provide legal advice to individuals.

Cafcass' role is to assess children's needs, to write reports or a case analysis for court making recommendations for how a child's welfare and best interests can be best promoted and safeguarded. Therefore, when considering how much time a child should spend with each parent, Cafcass' recommendation to the court will be based on what the Cafcass officer assesses is in the child's best interests in that specific case. This will be different in every case, as every case is individual and depends on many factors including, but not limited to, the child's age, personality, stage of development, relationship with the parents, as well as the relationship between parents. In accordance with Government policy, Cafcass supports children maintaining a meaningful relationship with both parents, where it is safe and in the best interests of the child to do so.

Our Operating Framework sets out how we meet our responsibilities as a family court social work service, and provides relevant guidance for practitioners when making recommendations to the court in relation to child arrangement orders. This framework can be found at <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/leaflets-resources/policies-and-templates-for-secs/policies.aspx>

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





It is the court, and not Cafcass, that makes decisions about contact. Section 1 of the Children Act 1989 outlines that unless the contrary is shown, a court is to presume that involvement of that parent in the life of the child concerned will further the child's welfare:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41>

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

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

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Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive

