



Cafcass National Office
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Your ref: CAF 16-105
Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-105

Tel 0300 456 4000

1 August 2016

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 28 July 2016. You made the following requests for information:

1. Where does it explained that a child who is a party to the proceedings is prohibited from knowing about, or being told about the contents of a Cafcass Section 7 Report?

The Family Procedure Rules 2010 set out how Cafcass reports are shared within family proceedings. In particular, [Practice Direction 16A paragraph 6.9 – 6.11](#) sets out how the children’s guardian should share information with the child which is at the guardian’s discretion based on the age and understanding of the child.

2. If a child who is a party to the proceedings is prohibited from being told about or reading a Cafcass Section 7 Report, how is the child expected to raise a complaint specifically about the interview and the report?

Please see the response above about children being told about information within court reports. The guardian in a case where the child is a party will almost always meet with the child during the proceedings and the child is able to raise complaints at that stage or in writing at any stage. For more information about how children are able to provide feedback including complaints to Cafcass, please see [information on our website for children](#) and the Cafcass [Complaints Procedure](#) which sets out how Cafcass handles complaints from children.

3. Please explain the procedures for the above?

This information has been set out above.

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





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/>):

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SK9 5AF

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casework@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

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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
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