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Your ref: CAF 16-110  
Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-110

Tel 0300 456 4000

24<sup>th</sup> August 2016

## Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your emails of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2016. You made the following requests for information:

1. [Could you please also advise on your guidelines for apportioning a child's time between the parents and the guidelines on controlling/halting contact between a parent and child](#)

Cafcass does not have guidance on the amount of contact that is appropriate for parents.

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.

It is the court, and not Cafcass, that makes decisions about contact.

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.

All practitioner recommendations are case specific and are based on their professional judgement of the child's welfare. All of our training revolves

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around being child centred, and taking into account risk factors, evidence-based assessments, and diversity issues.

2. I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information act for all of the resources in the library on the subject on parental alienation, specifically resources and guidelines Cafcass workers rely on in regards to making decisions that result in parental alienation and any studies about the effects of this on the children that the workers may use as a tool to make their recommendation.

We attach a copy of resources our library offers practitioners regarding parental alienation. To view this document click [here](#).

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

