



Victoria Soeder
request-599857-37c3f85f@whatdotheyknow.com

Your ref: CAF 19-138
Our ref: Gov/CAF 19-138

Cafcass National Office
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27 September 2019

Dear Ms Soeder,

Re: Freedom of Information Request - Internal Review

Thank you for your email of 06 September 2019. You requested an internal review of the response to your Freedom of Information request (CAF19-138) which was sent to you on 04 September 2019. An internal review involves a review of the decision on disclosure in the original response and the way in which the request was handled. The internal reviewer can either uphold or overturn the original decision.

Melanie Carew, Head of Legal, who was not party to the original decision on whether to release the information, has now conducted the internal review. Please see their response below.

In your request for an internal review, you requested:

Please supply all of the information I requested, if emotional harm is identified by an FCA In CAFCASS risk and harm used in assessment please provide the information i.e the full risk and harm module, guidance, training, assessment and any other documents/ guidance trying FCA's use to document emotional abuse.

Cafcass does not hold specific training on emotional harm. As stated in our FOI response, Cafcass has a Knowledge Bite which is specific to Emotional Harm. Knowledge Bites are succinct summaries of key issues with references to source materials that can be obtained from the Cafcass library. A copy of the Knowledge Bite was provided in your original FOI response. The Risk and Harm induction eLearning references Emotional Harm but is not specifically focused on the subject of Emotional Harm in isolation. Please find attached a copy of the Risk and Harm eLearning storyboard.

Edward Timpson CBE Chair
Jacky Tiotto Chief Executive





Cafcass has a [Child Protection Policy](#) that sets out how we will respond to allegations of significant harm in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including emotional harm.

Cafcass does not have guidance or assessments specific to emotional harm. Cafcass has evidence informed tools which are used by practitioners to support their direct work with adults and children in order to improve the quality of evidence informed analysis in our reports. FCAs are encouraged to use appropriate tools, matched to the identified needs in the case; for example, when assessing the impact of domestic violence, or when ascertaining the wishes and feelings of children. The tools and resources are available on our [website](#). The tools are within a toolkit matrix which provides a guide to which tool can be selected in which circumstance and for what purpose.

We hope that you feel your question has been answered effectively. 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

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Wycliffe House, Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
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SK9 5AF

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01625 524 510

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Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

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Edward Timpson CBE Chair
Jacky Tiotto Chief Executive

