



Stuart Graham
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Your ref: CAF 19-096
Our ref: Gov/CAF 19-096

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05 June 2019

Dear Mr Graham

Re: Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your email of 04 June 2019. You made the following requests for information:

Children and parents assessed in private and public law proceedings should have their attachments to their parents investigated as part of any legal process that sincerely reports to the court.

Forensic attachment assessments of the type now available and used by some specialists can identify abuse and neglect, and enable formulation and delivery of interventions.

The quality of attachment in childhood forms the quality of most human functioning and interaction. The best interests of children cannot reliably be ascertained and reported to the court without evidence gained from an attachment perspective. The curriculums of most social work, psychology and psychiatric under- and post-graduate, and Doctoral degrees do not contain specialist training in attachment.

Please provide:

1. CAFCASS's policy on assessing attachment

Cafcass does not have a policy on assessing attachment. Please see our [website](#) for Cafcass policies.

2. All literature relied on that was used to formulate the policy

Please see the answer to question one.

Edward Timpson CBE Chair
Julie Brown Interim Chief Executive





3. How is the policy reviewed?

Please see the answer to question one.

4. What CPD in attachment is offered to CAFCASS operatives?

Cafcass has a Knowledge Bite on Attachment Theory. Knowledge Bites are succinct summaries of key issues with references to source materials that can be obtained from the Cafcass library. The Knowledge Bite covers:

Basic concepts of attachment theory

- Attachment relationships and bonds
- Attachment behaviours
- Internal working models
- Dimensions of caregiving behaviour
- Attachment patterns

Applying attachment theory in practice

- Direct work with children
- Understanding children's needs

Practitioners also have access to resources and new research via our in-house library service, to assist assessment of attachment in cases. This includes resource lists on specific topics which list the resources available to staff from the Cafcass library on these topics. Please see below for a list of our relevant resource lists in relation to attachment:

- Attachment - Age factors
- Anxious attachment - children
- Attachment - Assessment
- Attachment - Avoidant - Trauma
- Attachment - babies
- Attachment - bonding
- Attachment - Care proceedings
- Attachment and child development - Schofield, Shemmings, Shemmings
- Attachment - Children with disabilities
- Attachment - Culture - Child Protection - Safeguarding
- Attachment - Development - Infants
- Attachment - Divorce - Separation
- Attachment - Fathers
- Attachment - Insecure Attachment
- Attachment - John Bowlby - Mary Ainsworth

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- Attachment - Middle childhood
- Attachment - Loss - Children under 5
- Attachment - Middle childhood
- Attachment - mothers
- Attachment - Resilience
- Attachment - Siblings
- Attachment - Stability - Children
- Attachment - Styles - Culture
- Attachment - Young Children
- Attachment - Young people
- Attachment - Disorders
- Attachment interview - young people
- Attachment Theory - Internal Working Model
- Attachment Theory - Social Work

5. How many have undertaken that training?

Please see the answer to question one.

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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Wycliffe House, Water Lane,
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Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

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Julie Brown Interim Chief Executive





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Cafcass, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, is a non-departmental body of the Ministry of Justice
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