



Paul Archer  
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**Your ref: CAF 15-44**  
**Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-44**

Tel 0300 456 4000

7<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Dear Mr Archer

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Please see below for our responses to your requests for information:

Is it documented anywhere by CAFCASS that if 'parent A punishes the child for having good contact with parent B then CAFCASS can/will sometime suggest parent B to have less of no contact"

This information is not held by Cafcass.

I would also like to know the thoughts of CAFCASS as a whole, as to whether they support this mentality or if there is any documentation/training/guidance in existing which might address such ill beliefs or mentalities.

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.

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





All practitioner recommendations are case specific and are based on their professional judgement of the child's welfare. All of our training revolves around being child centred, and taking into account risk factors, evidence-based assessments, and diversity issues.

Do CAFCASS officers take any form of discrimination training to keep them up to date with currently beliefs and values of modern day sociality, if so please could you provide me with a copy of such train manuals.

Anti-discriminatory practice is a core value of the social work profession and is part of training offered on many issues; all Cafcass practitioners are qualified social workers registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and the majority are also members of the College of Social Work. Please see:

- The HCPC [Standards of Proficiency: Social Workers in England](#) (sections 5-6)
- the College of Social Work's [Domains within the Professional Capabilities Framework](#) (section 3) and [Code of Ethics for membership of the College of Social Work](#) (page 2)
- the British Association of Social Workers' [Code of Ethics for Social Work](#) (pages 9, 13, 14)

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 ([www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.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)

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive

