



J Wilson  
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**Your ref: CAF 17-89**  
**Our ref: Gov/CAF 17-89**

Cafcass National Office  
3rd Floor  
21 Bloomsbury Street  
London  
WC1B 3HF

Tel 0300 456 4000

31 July 2017

Dear J Wilson

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 19 July 2017. You made the following requests for information:

I note that you say that CAFCASS social work staff are required to complete 6 "Core" training modules which will be completed in the first 6 months.

Please can you confirm how these training modules are delivered (ie classroom based, elearning etc)

The Risk and Harm training module consists of two eLearning modules and a classroom training event. Case Work Start to Finish and Interviewing Skills are classroom based training events. The Legal context and Court Skills, Child Sexual Exploitation and Introduction to Private Law/Public Law training are eLearning modules.

Please can you also confirm what compulsory training cafcass court advisers receive in the areas of: assessments based on the child's age, personality, stage of development, relationship with the parent.

Cafcass has 6 core in-house training modules which are compulsory for practitioners to complete upon joining the organisation, which will be completed within the first six months of employment, detail of which has been supplied to you in FOI CAF17-77.

Cafcass does not have compulsory training specifically focused on the areas of: assessments based on the child's age, personality, stage of development and relationship with the parent.

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





All training for our staff underpins our focus on being child-centred and looking at the issues from the perspective of the child, taking into account risk factors, evidence-based assessments, and diversity issues. All practitioner recommendations are case specific and are based on their professional judgement of the child's welfare.

Cafcass' approach to supporting and educating staff, who are qualified and experienced on joining Cafcass, is one of Learning and Development, of which formal training forms one element, alongside library materials, supervision, assessment tools. Cafcass has a Child Development Knowledge bite available to staff, which sets out the key concepts and messages from research and wider professional literature in relation to the development of children with diverse needs and from different backgrounds. A Knowledge Bite is a succinct summary of key issues with references to source materials that can be obtained from the Cafcass library.

Cafcass has a [Supervision Policy](#) which outlines Cafcass' policy on supervision, service standards and learning.

Please see the Cafcass [Operating Framework](#) (sections 1.16-1.22) which sets out guidance for practitioners when working with children and young people.

I am also interested to understand the training and any internal guidance that is provided to cafcass court advisers on the "relationship between parents"

Cafcass does not have training or guidance specifically focused on the relationship between parents as training for staff is focused on being child-centred and looking at the issues from the perspective of the child.

Practitioners observe children together with their parents, in order to assess parenting skills or relationships and various [tools](#) are available to practitioners to use when working with children and adults, to support evidence-informed analysis.

Please see the Cafcass [Operating Framework](#) (sections 1.24-1.26) which sets out guidance for practitioners when working with parents and carers. Staff also have access to resources and new research via our in-house library service to assist practitioners when working with parents.

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/>):

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





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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



Cafcass, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, is a non-departmental body of the Ministry of Justice  
Cafcass National Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3HF



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