



CAFCASS

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

What is it?

CAFCASS' main priority is to make sure that the courts hear the views, wishes and feelings of the child and to ensure that the child's best interests are protected. They help with contact issues where parents are going through divorce or separation and support children in legal proceedings or adoption. There are 44 sites across the country and The Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the running of Cafcass and it is independent of local authorities.

Cafcass process and how it works

A Cafcass worker becomes involved once an application in the courts has been accepted. They work in private and public law proceedings and carry out their functions under the direction of the courts. Cafcass workers are qualified social workers.

A Cafcass worker will meet with relevant family members and professionals involved read relevant documents and speak with the child face to face to obtain their wishes and report this to the courts. They will also advise the judge what is best for the child and make recommendations.

In private law proceedings a Cafcass worker is known as Family Court Advisor and in public law they are known as Children's Guardian, but their work is very much the same.

Greater Manchester Services:

Cafcass Manchester is based in Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester and covers the 10 Local Authorities in Greater Manchester; Bolton,

All the local info I need is just a **click away!** 

www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk

Bury, Rochdale, Oldham, Tameside, Stockport, Trafford, Manchester, Salford and Wigan.

The work of the Manchester Cafcass workers includes:

- Gathering information from all involved in the case, for example parents/carers and meeting with child and any professionals
- Making safeguarding checks by contacting local authorities, this may include enquires with the police
- Undertaking risk assessments by meeting with relevant parties to the proceedings
- Writing to the courts with the outcome of the findings with recommendations about future plans for the child

Advice for Practitioners:

All professionals working with children and their families where Cafcass workers become involved, should familiarise themselves with the work of Cafcass. The Cafcass website has useful and informative information for families, children and professionals www.cafcass.gov.uk

For more information...

Email: A3post@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk

Manchester office

Tel: 0844 353 4332 (call centre)

For general queries about National Cafcass you can contact them at:

webenquiries@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk

or Tel: 0844 353 4332 or access the national Cafcass [website](http://www.cafcass.gov.uk) for more information

**Bolton
Council**