

WHAT IS A CHILD IMPACT REPORT / SAFEGUARDING LETTER?

What is a Child Impact Report?

A child impact report or safeguarding letter is a brief report investigating the safeguarding and welfare issues raised by an individual. This is completed by the 'Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service', known as CAFCASS.

When will Safeguarding letters be received or exchanged?

At least three days before the first court hearing.

How long does it take to conduct a CAFCASS Safeguarding Report?

This time frame can vary but it takes approximately around 12 weeks for CAFCASS to prepare and deliver to the court.

What happens after the Child Impact Report is completed?

After the Child Impact Report is completed, the **Court Child Expert provides it to the ordering judge or registrar who will then formally release the report.** You or your representative, if you have one, will receive a copy of the report when it is released.

What is the usual process?

CAFCASS will usually meet with both parties separately and meet with the child in an independent place such as at their school, if this is appropriate to do so given the age and understanding of the child. CAFCASS will include their findings from these meetings as well as findings from local authorities such as the Police and Social Services in their Child Impact Report.

You, and your former partner, will be able to rely on the evidence and suggestions within the report in your case. The court will heavily consider any and all suggestions for the children within the CAFCASS Child Impact Report.

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