

National Charter for Child Inclusive Family Justice

1. Children and young people should be at the centre of all proceedings.
 - The child or young person should feel that their needs, wishes and feelings have been considered in the court process.
 - Each decision should be assessed on its impact on the child.
2. Children and young people should be kept safe. They should feel safe and be safe.
3. Every child should be respected and treated as an individual.
4. Children and young people should be informed of their rights.
5. Children and young people should be given the opportunity to meet and communicate with the professionals involved with their case including Cafcass workers, social workers, judiciary and legal representatives.
 - Every child over the age of sufficient age and ability should have the opportunity of meeting with a member of the judiciary overseeing their case.
 - Every child should have sufficient time to build a relationship with their Cafcass worker.
 - Every child should have clear contact details for their social worker/Cafcass worker including office address, telephone number, email address.
 - Every child should have the opportunity through the Cafcass worker/social worker of submitting their views directly to the judge in writing.
 - All children should be able to communicate their wishes and feelings with a judge.
 - Every child (age dependant) should have the opportunity of viewing or being informed about the social worker/Cafcass worker's report.
 - The child or young person should be consulted about the timing and venue for meetings.
6. Children and young people should be kept informed about the court proceedings in an age appropriate manner.
 - Do not use jargon.
 - Making language clear, understandable and age appropriate.
 - Use methods of communication that children and young people are in touch with.
 - Children and young people should be kept informed as to what stage in proceedings their case is at.
 - The child or young people should be contacted prior to the first hearing.
 - A follow up visit should be made by the Cafcass worker at the end of proceedings to share the judgement, enable understanding and signpost for the future.
7. Every child and young person should have the opportunity of giving feedback through email, text, telephone or written form.
8. Children and young people should be involved in all developments in family justice.
 - Inspection by young people of the family justice services.
 - Involvement in training of all professionals in family justice.