

How do I apply to the court for an order, in relation to my children?

Send Application to court with court fee of £215.

Court issues Application, sends copy back to Applicant for service upon the Respondent and sends copy to CAFCASS.

CAFCASS make checks with the Police and Social Services before telephoning the Applicant and the Respondent to discuss issues.

CAFCASS writes to the court with a summary of their enquiries and discussions between the Applicant and the Respondent and identifies issues and makes recommendations to the court.

First Directions Hearing, both the Applicant and Respondent attend.

If a final agreement is reached the court can make a final order.

If a report is required, then the court will order a report and adjourn the application for usually three to four months.

CAFCASS prepare a report as to the issues and makes a recommendation to the court.

Second Directions Hearing Dispute Resolution Appointment. Both the Applicant and Respondent to attend. If an agreement is reached, then the court can make a final order.

If there is no agreement, then the court lists the case for a Final Hearing, gives directions leading up to that hearing.

The Applicant and Respondent each file and serve a statement in support of their case.

Final Hearing and Final Orders made.

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