



PRESIDENT OF THE
FAMILY DIVISION



Gwasanaeth Cynghori
a Chynorthwyo Llys
i Blant a Theuluoedd
Children and Family
Court Advisory
and Support Service

Mae CAFCASS Cymru yn
rhan o Lywodraeth Cymru
CAFCASS Cymru is part of
the Welsh Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



National Office
21 Bloomsbury Street
London
WC1B 3HF

Tel: 0300 456 4000

01 December 2015

The new DNA scheme in disputed Child Arrangements Order cases – effective immediately

We are writing to draw your attention to this new provision, which came into effect last week. We suggest you read and absorb the information, available on the Cafcass website at the links below, about how the new provision and procedure will operate.

This service arose out of concern that too many finding of fact hearings were being convened because courts could not order a DNA test to determine paternity. The new service is intended only for those cases where the case turns on the need for a DNA test to establish paternity. Establishing true parentage is important for children, hence we want to emphasise the importance of this new service for these children. However, if a dispute can be resolved in another way between the parties, this may be preferable to testing.

The service is being funded from existing budgets. At this stage, funding for the service in England and Wales is secured for the next 12 months only. It is in the common interest, including that of children, for the provision and resource to be used both sparingly and appropriately, to ensure the service has the best possible chance of being sustainable in future years.

Information for those who will be tested, or for the adult with care and control for the subject parent, is available at:

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/media/268460/completing_a_dna_test_-_the_process.pdf

Information for courts is available at:

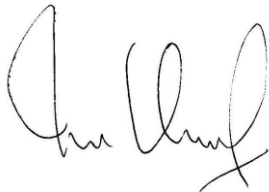
https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/media/268569/information_for_courts_cafcass_cafcass_cymru_funding_for_dna_tests_in_child_arrangements_cases.pdf



Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive

We are pleased it has been possible through a lot of hard work to make this happen. It shows what can be done through effective partnership working. We hope this will be the first of a number of innovations and initiatives that we will be able to develop together in the coming months and years, despite the challenging times, for the ultimate benefit of children and their families.

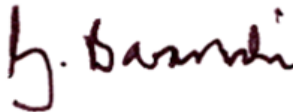
Yours sincerely



Sir James Munby
President of the Family Division



Anthony Douglas CBE
Chief Executive, Cafcass



Gillian Baranski OBE
Chief Executive, CAF/CASS Cymru