

Title	Children in post-separation litigation: The influence of research on practice in CAFCASS		
First Author/Convenor Name	Harriet Bretherton	e-Mail address of First Author/Convenor Name	harriet.bretherton@cafcass.gov.uk
Institution of First Author/Convenor Name	CAFCASS		
Abstract	<p>The assumption of the paper is that an important motivation for researchers is that their work helps improve outcomes for children and their families.</p> <p>Taking CAFCASS as a case example, the paper will aim to explore how research on children and divorce influences the work of the CAFCASS practitioner with children and their families in private law.</p> <p>Applying the concepts of “access (to research)” and “application (of research)” developed by Walter I, Nutley s, Percy-Smith J, McNeish D and Frost S (2004 <i>Improving the use of research in social care practice</i> SCIE) to the work of CAFCASS, it will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the organisational expectations about the use of research to inform practice? • What research relating to children and separation do practitioners and managers know about and read? • How do they access research on children and separation? • How do they use the research in their work with children and their families? How does it help provide appropriate services in a diverse society? • What further research in this field would be most helpful in developing their practice? <p>The paper will report on a small survey of CAFCASS teams and on the experience of the CAFCASS Research Co-ordinator whose role it is to promote the use of research within the organisation.</p>		