

Cinderella law -child referrals NCC-032850-18

In June 2014 the Government introduced new legislation to criminalise emotional or psychological abuse of a child, the so called Cinderella Law.

On 12th February 2017 the Chief Executive of CAFCASS was interviewed in the Daily Telegraph stating

"Divorced parents who "brainwash" their children against ex partners are guilty of "abuse". The deliberate manipulation of a child by one parent against the other has become so common in family breakdown that it should be dealt with like any other form of neglect or child abuse"

How many parents have been referred to Police for " brainwashing " a child / children during child arrangement orders overseen by Local Authority Children's Services Departments

Time frame is calendar year June 2017- June 2018

If unable to extract data, as the request is deemed too time consuming ,please note the FOI Act states that if a public interest factor exists (child abuse is certainly of public interest) the decision to use an exemption ,such as too timely ,has to outweigh disclosure of data in the public interest.

Many thanks

Dear Requester,

Further to your Freedom of information request, we are very sorry for the delay in responding, however we have had to carry out an indepth investigation in order to provide you with a full response, which has taken longer than anticipated. However the relevant department/s have provided the below statement.

We apologise that this may not be the answer you were expecting.

The only information that is available is the date of orders granted when these have been subject to public law proceedings, or private proceedings where the LA has been involved. We cannot extract data if a CAO has been in place prior to our involvement and we then become involved, as this would not be recorded. I have therefore used the given timescale for identifying the cases where a CAO was actually made in this period. If we were to look at those where a CAO is already in place, we would need to go back up to 16 years and manually go through each case to see if there was social care involvement in the given period and then look through each file (again manually) to see if there were any referrals made to the police.

During the period June 2017 to June 2018 there were 25 child arrangements orders made where the local authority were involved. This does not include those cases where an interim child arrangement order is in place and the court proceedings have not yet concluded. Unless a referral made by the LA to the police is done as part of a strategy discussion (if considering a child protection investigation), there is no electronic referral form and so I have checked the case notes of each and found no such referrals. Where

applicable, I have also read final orders and case summaries from the care proceedings, and find no such issues within these 25 cases.

This in effect mean that Nottingham County Council hold no data. However should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

Nottinghamshire County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR,s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link)

<http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or email complaints@nottscc.gov.uk.