

JFCAS Child contact interventions

When contact has broken down, the court can order that JFCAS undertake a Child Contact Intervention (CCI).

CCIs are designed to help parents and children establish safe and beneficial contact when this is difficult to do so on their own. Interventions are short-term and intended for families where independent, safe and beneficial contact should be possible for them in the future.

A CCI may be undertaken by the JFCAS officer allocated to the case, or referred to a specialist member of the team, depending on the nature of the issues.

The JFCAS officer will make a CCI recommendation when they assess that the child should be spending time with a parent or adult, but they are not doing so for some reason. CCIs can be effective in cases where:

- parental conflict is intractable (including where harmful conflict is the predominant factor) and needs positive practical reframing
- contact has lapsed and needs support to re-establish
- there are risk issues which need to be further assessed and some supervised or supported contact is needed

What happens during a CCI?

CCIs encourage parents to listen to their child's views and to approach contact in ways that meet their child's needs. The intervention is overseen by a JFCAS officer, takes place in a safe and controlled environment, and informs JFCAS assessments, including consideration of any safety concerns.

There are several types of intervention available, depending on the needs of the child/ren with work being undertaken as follows:

- Work with children to prepare for contact – this can help them with the reintroduction of contact and /or ensure that their views are listened to. Work is likely to focus on meeting the child's emotional needs.
- Work with parents to prepare for contact – this might be appropriate to ensure that the child's views are heard and responded to. Parents are helped to understand their child's needs and to work together to support the child.
- Intervention and observation of contact – this is used to reassure the child and monitor their acceptance of contact, as well as the parent's responses. It might be used to support reintroduction to contact. It can also be used where observation is needed to gain understanding of any risk and safety factors.

- Sustaining contact – to help sustain a relationship, perhaps during a period where a parent is undertaking another intervention (e.g. a co-parenting programme and/or is undergoing an assessment)
- Indirect contact – this might be appropriate as a step towards direct contact, perhaps while a parent is attending a programme or undergoing assessment.
- Helping to negotiate and resolve any disputes between adults that are holding up the process of contact

CCI's will generally be undertaken over a maximum period of 12 weeks, before being reviewed by JFCAS and/or the court.

What happens after a CCI?

The JFCAS officer will provide (either as part of their welfare report, or as a standalone CCI report) a written update to the court, which makes recommendations for what should happen next. This may involve further intervention, but is more likely to consider a plan for contact in some form (either indirect or direct) moving forward on an independent basis.

Useful resources

[Click \(clickrelationships.org\)](http://clickrelationships.org)

[Divorce and separation – Cafcass – Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service](#)

[Parenting Plan – Cafcass – Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service](#)

[Family Mediation Jersey – The Family Resolution Service \(fmj.je\)](#)