

About JFCAS

JFCAS stands for the Jersey Family Court Advisory Service. We work within the Jersey Probation and After-Care Service, under the Royal Court of Jersey. We represent the interests of children in family court proceedings, and ensure their voices are heard when decisions are made about them.

JFCAS officers are all professionally qualified and highly experienced social workers, who work independently and exclusively in the family court.

JFCAS are involved in the following type of proceedings:

- When children are the subject of an application by The Minister for Children ('the Children's Service') for care or supervision of a child, or to place a child in secure accommodation (['public law'](#)). In these instances, our officers act as 'Children's Guardians'.
- When parents who are separating or divorcing are unable to agree on arrangements for their children, such as where they will live and/or who they will spend time with (['private law'](#)). In private law, our officers act as Court Welfare Officers (CWOs).
- When children are subjects of an application for an [adoption order](#), our officers assess this and act as a 'Guardian ad Litem'.

Our duty is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children going through the family court system, and ensure that their needs, wishes and feelings are at the forefront of decisions made about them.

Our most important roles are to:

- keep children safe
- give information, advice and support to children and their families
- help the family courts make the best possible decisions about children.

Our workers are experienced in working with children and families at difficult times in their lives.

We work to make sure that the children and young people we work with are kept safe and that they are put first in family court cases. Our workers represent children in court and advise the court on what they consider to be in children's best interests. The court will always consider what the JFCAS worker and others in the case have said. However, when making a decision, the court will not always do what the JFCAS worker has recommended.

As part of our duty to help keep children safe, we will check with other organisations, such as the police or the children's services, to see if they have any relevant information about children's safety and welfare.

In some cases our work with families will be brief and will only take place at the start of the court case. In other cases we may, if the court asks, be more heavily involved. These different roles are explained in detail in our [operating framework](#).