



Cafcass Cymru Child and Adolescent Welfare Assessment Checklist (CAWAC)

What is CAWAC?

- Assesses how conflict between parents / carers affects children's emotional / psychological wellbeing.
- Used uniquely in Wales by Cafcass Cymru
- Incorporates questionnaires aimed at children over the age of 5.

Benefits of a CAWAC

- Allows your child to safely explore and express their feelings in situations where parents / carers are in conflict
- Establishes how your child is being affected by their situation
- Responses can be analysed for bias or undue influences
- Assists your understanding of how your child is experiencing a situation, and allows for a more objective, child-centred report to be produced for the court.
- Delivered in Welsh or English.





The CAWAC Process

1. How the decision is made that the CAWAC is suitable in your case:

Court Ordered

In some instances the court may order that a CAWAC is needed.



During Enquiries

The Cafcass Cymru Family Court Advisor (FCA) may decide a CAWAC assessment is needed depending on the circumstances of the case.

2. Your Cafcass Cymru FCA will answer any questions about CAWAC and the process of assessment. CAWAC is completed:

During sessions between your child and the Cafcass Cymru FCA – no other family members will be present.



Younger children will have the option to respond to questions verbally. This may involve more than one session.



Older children are more likely to complete the questionnaires themselves.



Where possible the CAWAC will be completed in a neutral venue such as one of our offices.



Parents/carers and/or teachers may be asked to complete one of the questionnaires about the child.

3. How are the CAWAC results interpreted?

Some of the questionnaires will involve responses being scored following strict guidelines, this ensures consistency for all.

The results will indicate if your child is being affected by the parental conflict and in what ways.

Usually the interpretation of the CAWAC is explained to you and incorporated into the Cafcass Cymru court reports.

4. Inclusion in the final court report.

Interpretation of the results of the CAWAC.



Other assessment information.



A thorough and objective assessment.