The Family Court at Manchester

Manchester Civil Justice Centre

1 Bridge Street West

Manchester

M60 9DJ

 0161 240 5000

***Court Proceedings Concerning Children.***

***A short note about what happens next.***

*An application for an order relating to child arrangements has today been issued by the Court****.***

*The case will now be referred to CAFCASS to enable them to carry out ‘Safeguarding Checks’ as required by the Family Procedure Rules. CAFCASS will contact you and ask for your assistance to write a report to the Court of the Safeguarding Checks.  Once the safeguarding report is received, and no later than 25 working days from today, the case will be reconsidered; allocated to an appropriate level of judge and given a hearing date. Prior to that hearing date you may be receive directions (instructions) for you to carry out to ensure that the first hearing is productive. If it is possible and safe the Judge or Justices will seek to make final orders at the first hearing.*

*If, during this process, something changes which affects the urgency of your case you can apply for an earlier hearing using form C2, this is available from* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/form-c2-application-for-permission-to-start-proceedings-for-an-order-or-directions-in-existing-proceedings-to-be-joined-as-or-cease-to-be-a-part>

The Court system is under a great deal of pressure at present and the Court process may seem slow and frustrating. In general, it is better for children if their parents and carers can reach an agreement about the arrangements for them after the breakdown of a relationship. Contested Court proceedings are stressful and potentially hurtful and harmful for everyone.

You will find enclosed **Top Tips for Parents** produced by the Cafcass Young People’s Justice Board.  They were put together by children who had been involved in this type of court case and we hope you find the Tips to be helpful and thought provoking.

A list of organisations that may assist you to reach agreement outside the Court arena is also attached.

Yours sincerely

Family Applications Team

manchesterfamily@justice.gov.uk [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)