

Wishes and feelings reports

Under the Children (Jersey) Law 2002, the ‘wishes and feelings’ of the child in question must be borne in mind (the weight given dependent on their age and development), by the court when making decisions.

Sometimes, one person or another may raise their child’s wishes and feelings as the major factor in deciding the arrangements for the child. In these circumstances, and where there are no other welfare concerns which would necessitate a full welfare report, the court may order JFCAS to undertake a ‘Wishes and Feelings assessment’.

What will happen

JFCAS officer’s gather children’s wishes and feelings in different ways, depending on their age, their development, and their particular needs. These assessments are less likely to be undertaken with very young children as a standalone report, but rather their wishes and feelings gathered as part of a wider report.

We will usually meet children at home to introduce ourselves and explain the process, before arranging an appointment at the JFCAS office.

Children will always be offered the opportunity to be seen on their own, so that they do not feel the need to please either parent. If they choose not to, then the reason for this will be recorded.

Children are always given the opportunity to choose not to contribute, if they do not want to.

The assessment should not just report what the child has said, but should also briefly analyse and interpret the child's words against the background of the case.