

21 April 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 21 March 2026, to the Ministry of Justice, requesting information on supervised contact in the Family Court. On 9 April, you were advised that question 14 of your request was being transferred to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) for response. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

*How do children under Oranga Tamariki / court wardship access any child advocacy resources?*

Tamariki and rangatahi have the right to frequent communication with their whānau, loved ones, and other important people in their lives. This includes their legal representative and social worker. These arrangements ensure that children and young people have access to adults who can advocate for their needs and raise concerns about their oranga.

Children and young people in Oranga Tamariki care have regular contact with their social worker. This can occur through phone calls, emails and texts and face to face meetings at least once every eight weeks with more frequent visits if this is specified in their individual care plan. Caregiver social workers also frequently visit caregivers and check with young people in their care.

There are advocacy services such as [VOYCE Whakarongo Mai](#), that offer support to children and young people.

The Children's Commission visit children and young people cared for in secure residences and other Oranga Tamariki facilities. Tamariki and rangatahi in secure residences have access to a grievance process and an independent Grievance Panel.

Children and young people are supported to contact these advocacy services via channels such as phone calls, emails, written correspondence and features enabled in advocacy websites, such as the 'chat' function.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I hope that I have understood your question correctly and you find my response helpful. If I have misunderstood your question, please feel free to contact me at [Ashley.seaford@ot.govt.nz](mailto:Ashley.seaford@ot.govt.nz) and we can clarify what additional information you need. Thank you.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Ashley Seaford  
**Chief Advisor, Office of the Chief Social Worker**