

OT-OIA-2025-0223

5 August 2026

s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, received on 14 July 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information about Oranga Tamariki policies and practice guidance for professional support. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Our Practice Approach and Practice Standards are the benchmark for our practice as we work with tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau, caregiving families and others involved in their lives. Further information can be found [Our practice approach | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#) and [Practice standards | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)

You have requested:

How concerns identified several months earlier are reassessed when the parent's circumstances have changed and significant new supports and safeguards are now in place.

How OT determines whether an original concern is still a current concern.

How professional supports, whānau supports, advocacy and hands-on respite support are considered as protective factors.

How positive progress and positive parenting observations are recorded and considered when reviewing risk.

How neurodivergence, trauma, sensory overload, communication needs and emotional regulation are considered when assessing and working with a parent.

What OT considers when deciding to increase parent-child contact.

What OT considers when progressing contact to overnight stays.

What OT considers when deciding whether reunification can safely progress.

How OT identifies and communicates the specific remaining barriers to reunification.

How an FGC plan is reviewed to determine whether it is working and remains viable.

How Reports of Concern are assessed, including repeated Reports of Concern involving the same whānau.

How the reliability, source and context of a Report of Concern are considered.

What guidance applies where OT is advised that a Report of Concern may have been made maliciously, as retaliation, or with information known to be false.

Guidance for developing access progression and reunification plans alongside whānau and relevant professional supports.

The Oranga Tamariki Practice Centre website is a resource for Oranga Tamariki practitioners for guidance in their work with tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau. This information is publicly available. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

To assist you, please find below some links to publicly available information that respond specifically to your request.

- [Assessing safety needs for tamariki and rangatahi in care | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Child/young person and family consult | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Tiaki Oranga | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Protect and support the development of tamariki and rangatahi within healthy whānau and families | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Advocacy for parents and whānau or family | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Recording casework | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Upholding the rights and mana of disabled people and tāngata whaikaha Māori | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Whai mātauranga in relational and inclusive disability practice | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Advocacy for parents and whānau or family | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Trauma-informed theory | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Considerations when responding to information received | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Supporting whānau connections | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Babysitting and overnight stays: When children or young people are in care | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Return home | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Child/young person and family consult | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)

- [Family group conferences for care or protection concerns | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Overview of the intake decision response tool | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)
- [Considerations when responding to information received | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)

In response to Oranga Tamariki determining concerns, our assessment policy regarding Reports of Concern can also be found on the Practice Centre website [here](#), and relevant guidance on the assessment process can be found [here](#).

In addition, please find attached Appendix One, guidance documents that inform assessment practices undertaken by staff at our National Contact Centre.

For your information, responses to selected Official Information Act requests received by the Ministry are published [here](#).

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

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 or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Ashley Seaford
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