Information sharing

How the Oranga Tamariki and family violence guidance documents work together

What's changing

Legislation came into force on 1 July 2019 that enables people and agencies working with tamariki, rangatahi and whānau to share information appropriately so that tamariki, rangatahi and whānau can be safe from harm.

Guidance on how to safely share information has been provided under both the Family Violence Act 2018 and the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.

The Family Violence Act 2018	The Oranga Tamariki Act 1989
 introduces new laws that allow information to be shared to identify, stop, prevent andotherwise respond to family violence applies to the family violence sector 	 amends the existing information sharing provisions to allow information to be shared for the safety and wellbeing of tamariki or rangatahi applies to the child welfare and protection sector

Both Acts

- apply to many of the same agencies and people, including schools, early childhood services, healthprofessionals, social workers, some non-government organisations, Police and other government departments
- are designed to encourage agencies and people to voluntarily share information, and work collaboratively
- are about ensuring information that is relevant is shared appropriately, and for the right purposes
- mean that people are generally protected from civil, criminal or disciplinary proceedings as long asinformation is shared in good faith, and they comply with the relevant information sharing provisions.

How do I know which legislation I should use to share information?

Use the provisions in the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 to share information if it's to:

- prevent or reduce the risk of harm, ill-treatment, abuse, or neglect for tamariki or rangatahi
- make or contribute to an assessment of the risks or needs of tamariki or rangatahi
- make, contribute to, or monitor any support plan for tamariki or rangatahi that is managed by Oranga Tamariki.

Use the provisions in the Family Violence Act 2018 if it's to:

- help protect a victim from family violence
- make or contribute to a family violence risk or need assessment
- make decisions or carry out plans related to responding to family violence.

Where can I find out more about these provisions?

For guidance on using information sharing provisions in the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, visit the Oranga Tamariki website and search 'information sharing'.

For guidance on using information sharing provisions in the Family Violence Act 2018, visit the Ministry of Justice website and search 'information sharing'.