

24 May 2023

Zane Collins

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Our ref: OIA 104272 & 104278

Tēnā koe Zane

Official Information Act request: Care of Children Act 2004

Thank you for your email of 27 April 2023 regarding information related to the Care of Children Act 2004. Specifically, you requested:

The list of manuals, guidelines, policies and standard operation procedures used by the Family Court Coordinators in regard to the following processes:

- 1) s46G Counselling after proceedings commenced of the Care of Children Act 2004*
- 2) s133 Reports from other persons of the Care of Children Act 2004*

On 27 April 2023, you also requested the following information:

- 3) Extract of the Family Court registrar's powers manuals for: 103. Deciding a s 46E exemption from family dispute resolution (FDR) (Care of Children Act 2004)*

Your request has been referred to me for response, as it falls within my responsibilities as General Manager, Courts and Tribunals and is being managed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

In response to parts one, two and three of your requests, information about judicial processes constitutes judicial information under Schedule 1 of the District Courts Act 2016 and may not be obtained under the Act. This information may be held by the Ministry, but as an agent of the courts, which are not subject to the Act.

Therefore, I am refusing parts one, two and three under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA as the information sought is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another Minister or agency subject to the Act.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Williams'.

Richard Williams

Group Manager (Acting), Courts & Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery