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Tēnā koe Tina Marie

Official Information Act request 2223-0058 – Application for a registration of name change

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 19 July 2022.

You requested –

- *Why is an affidavit of life instrument, that has been signed, finger printed, and witnessed with a seal of a public notary, not sufficient enough to amend the outdated information held with the registrar of BDM or DIA;*
- *What authorizes the registrar to not amend the record, and what is their job description;*

In response to the first part of your request, I must advise that a person or their legal guardian(s) may request a name change by providing a completed statutory declaration on a Name Change form, the prescribed fee, and any required evidence. This process is clearly set out in section 21A(2)(a) of the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995.

You can find this information via the following link: [Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995 No 16 \(as at 01 July 2022\), Public Act 21A Application for registration of name change – New Zealand Legislation](#).

In response to the remainder of your request, please refer to Appendix A, attached. Appendix A provides you with a copy of the job description for a Life and Identity Services Officer (LISO).

Registrars are Births Deaths and Marriages trained LISOs who have been appointed by the Registrar-General, as per section 81 of the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Department has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on the DIA website. All requestor data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julia Taylor
Manager Operational Policy and Official Correspondence
Service Delivery and Operations