



Reporting Concerns About Child, Young Person Policy



"I trust them to act in my best interests and listen to me."

Intent

We are proactive and intervene early when we are concerned about the wellbeing or behaviours of a child or young person. We understand and implement our obligations to report abuse and harm.

We do not act alone, and we discuss concerns with our colleagues.

Requirements

Raise and discuss concerns

Kaimahi must raise child abuse concerns with management/their delegate as soon as possible.

The concerns and reporting them to Oranga Tamariki will be discussed with the young person and their parents/guardians unless there are safety issues or it's not reasonably practicable.

(Note: Notifications can be made on a confidential basis).



What should be reported

The following forms of abuse, indicated through assessment or a young person's disclosure or behaviour will usually be reported to New Zealand Police and/or Oranga Tamariki:

- sexual offences
- physical assault
- neglect (e.g depriving a child of basic necessities like kai, shelter, supervision or medical care)
- theft of money or other possessions from a child or young person by a caregiver
- providing illegal drugs to a child or medications that are not prescribed for them.

Reporting

Criminal activity should be reported to New Zealand Police (including threats of assault and fraud as financial abuse)

Concerns about serious harm to a child/ young person will be reported to:

- Oranga Tamariki on phone: 0508 Family or 0508 326 459
email: contact@ot.govt.nz, or
- Phone emergency services on 111

Exceptions

Sometimes, abuse will not be reported if the child/young person is safe from abuse and no longer at risk having regard to:

- the child's/young person's views about reporting
- the recency and impacts of the abuse
- protective factors in the current living situation (eg access to support, the involvement of other agencies)



- other [signs of safety](#).

If a rangatahi was abused in the past, a report may not be needed. However, a report to Police or Oranga Tamariki will be made in these circumstances if it would be in the [best interests](#) of [other](#) rangatahi/tamariki.

Record notification

Notifications to Oranga Tamariki must be recorded in rangatahi files along with that agency's response. They will also be recorded and tracked in our central register (ie [abuse notification register](#).)

Notifications in the register that are not responded to in a timely way will be followed up for a response with Oranga Tamariki.

See [Child Protection](#) policy for other requirements.

Helpful links

[Back to Child protection](#)

[Abuse Notification Register](#)

[Suspected abuse report form](#)

Review

Date: March 2021

Next review: by February 2023