



Responding to Clients Perpetrating Abuse Policy



Intent

We aim to support and strengthen family and whānau wellbeing. If we become aware a person is threatening or causing harm to another person, we will support them to stop the abuse and change the behaviour.

We adhere to our Practice principles, will be transparent and open with the person and prioritise the safety of victims and tamariki.

Requirements

Respond to risk and harm

The [Behaviour support](#) policy will be applied to help manage disruptive or challenging behaviour towards staff or other rangatahi. For bullying or abusive behaviour online, our policy on cyberbullying will apply.

If there is concern that a person poses a significant danger to others (eg an intimate partner or family member), authorities must be notified:

- the New Zealand Police on phone 111 and/or
- Oranga Tamariki on phone 0508 326 459 immediately.



Consideration must also be given to sharing the information with other relevant services eg a family violence service if it concerns family violence.

Support change

The person concerned will be supported to take responsibility and change their behaviour, for example, we will:

- revise and re-focus their planned interventions/supports
- raise awareness about the impact of abuse on tamariki, partner, carer and whānau
- use motivational strategies to provoke or support change
- refer them internally or externally to get help to change their behaviour eg parenting course and/or to address contributing factors (for example isolation, unemployment, psychiatric illness or other disorder)
- develop a safety plan with the rangatahi
- kōrero about the implications of not doing anything eg involvement of Oranga Tamariki, Police, and a protection order under the Family Violence Act 2018
- address other relevant issues.

Adhere to safe practice principles

Practice principles will be applied. We will:

- prioritise the best interests and safety of any involved child, young person or adult who is at risk
- know and stay within the limits of our role
- protect the interests of victims
- build and maintain rapport while avoiding collusion with the rangatahi.



Compliance

Social Sector Accreditation Standards Level 2, Community wellbeing; Client services and programmes

Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

Helpful links

[See Abuse and protection](#) or [Child Protection](#) (for practice principles)

[Information-sharing](#)

[Family Violence Intervention Guidelines](#)

[Working together to support tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau](#)

[Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management Framework A Common Approach to Screening, Assessment and Managing Risk](#)

[Engage: Roadmap for frontline professionals interacting with male perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse](#)

Review

Date: March 2021

Next review: April 2023