



## Safety Planning Policy



“My moko and I are safe and we have planned for what we need to do if things start to escalate.”

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### Intent

We will identify and respond promptly when a person we're working with is at risk of harm or posing risk to others.

A safety plan will identify safety measures. It will involve the rangatahi and their support people.

### Definition

"Good practice principles" are set out in Child Protection policy.

### Responsibilities

**Management** will monitor compliance with this policy across service delivery and ensure kaimahi have adequate supervision.

**Kaimahi** with the necessary skills will undertake safety planning in accord with this and other policies.



## Requirements

A safety plan will be developed when risk of harm to or by the client is identified. This may be at any time in the relationship with the rangatahi.

"Good practice principles" must be applied.

### Key steps

- Identify and address the dynamic risk factors (eg isolation of separated parent, child behaviour)
- Identify signs of safety/ protective factors
- Obtain and incorporate the client's views about how to achieve safety into the plan
- Raise and consult with a senior/management about safety concerns/risks
- Obtain and reflect input of support people/whānau and other involved agencies/persons (eg specialist family violence service, Oranga Tamariki where a notification has been made)
- Alert other kaimahi as necessary
- Make and support the rangatahi/whānau with appropriate referrals (eg offer to accompany the person/their supports to a specialist family violence service; follow up with the service to check the referral worked)
- Integrate the safety plan with the service plan (where applicable) and give a copy to all plan participants (as agreed by the rangatahi.)

Monitor the safety plan and adjust to reflect changes in the dynamic risk factors. Some changes may alleviate risk (e.g perpetrator engaging in perpetrator programme) or can increase risk (e.g partner leaving an abusive relationship).

### Supported planning

Safety planning should not be delayed where the person has diminished capacity and is unable to give informed consent. In this situation, consider:

- their best interests



- current and any previously expressed views of the person
- input from whānau, other supports and any representative, who do not pose a danger to the rangatahi (eg legal guardian, caregiver, other support services and supporting family/whānau).

## Planning for holidays and/or other risks

As holidays approach or as situations in a young person's life arise, Tūtaki Social Workers will engage in safety planning with their clients.

The rangatahi will be informed about:

- the names and contact details of people who can support them if required eg family, Police, Youthline, Lifeline etc.  
the Police Project Leader's (PPL) phone number
- that the PPL can conduct a home visit over the holiday period
- Tūtaki's open hours
- the social worker's return to work date.

The safety plan will be stored in the young person's file.

The rangatahi will be given a copy of the plan unless it is unsafe to do so.

If it is unsafe for the rangatahi to take the plan home (eg their parent will be aggravated by the plan) the social worker will work with them to help them remember it.

The social worker will go over the safety plan with the rangatahi in the two-three sessions before the holiday period or event.

Where appropriate, the social worker may provide a copy of the plan to the PPL.

Compliance



Social Sector Accreditation Standards Level 2, Client services and programmes 1.0-3.0; Community wellbeing 2.0-3.0

Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights

NZS 8134: 2021 Our rights, Criterion 1.5

## **Helpful links**

[Client-centred services](#)

[Best interests of child or young person](#)

[Signs of safety: approach to implementation](#)

## **Review**

Date: January 2022

Next review: by December 2023