



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

17 March 2021

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Pavan Challa

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Dear Pavan

Official Information Act 1982 request – 2021-0459

I refer to your request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 18 February 2021. This response is provided to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested—

- *I need my spouse marital state, as per NZ records. I have right to know if my wife is married to another person while still married to me.*

Response

The Births, Deaths, and Marriages (BDM) office is bound by legislation to only release information of a birth, death, marriage, civil union, or name change, to an individual in the form of a certificate, printout or copy of the original registration form.

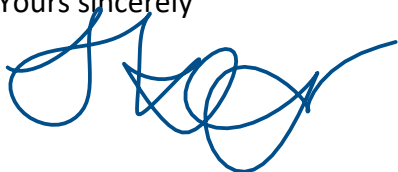
These documents provide details on birth, death, marriage, civil unions and name changes that occurred in New Zealand. In order for you to obtain this information, you would need to contact BDM directly to apply through the appropriate channels and pay the appropriate fee where required.

Therefore, I must refuse your request under Section 9(2)(a) of the Act; the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

If you have sufficient information on the suspected marriage e.g. bride and grooms' names, approximate date or year of the event, place of the event etc you can submit an application for a marriage certificate. If the application has been completed correctly and a record is located, we will send you the marriage certificate by post or courier. This will be confirmation of the marriage being registered in New Zealand. BDM will contact you if a record cannot be located. Please find attached an application form for your reference.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julia Taylor', with a stylized, cursive script.

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