

13 APR 2018

Zane Collins

fyi-request-7451-95d7f0f0@requests.fyi.org.nz

fyi-request-7452-bcbe695e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Collins

Official Information Act requests

Thank you for your two Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) requests of 14 March 2018 regarding the Family Court. Your requests are for the following:

- 1. Any family court manuals or any standard operation procedures related to principle 'the welfare and best interests of a child' interpretation which judges implement to make their decisions in accordance to S4(2) & S5 of the Care of Children Act 2004. Not particularly but the manual or the should state; "what criteria constitute a child's best interests and welfare and how these criteria should be applied in cases"? Also I would like to request under the Official Information Act, all lists of manuals and chapters used in the family court by Judges.*
- 2. The list and details of the "ongoing education and training given to family court judges" as stated by Chief District Court Judge Jan-Marie Doogue in [a newspaper article on the NZ Herald website].*

The information you have requested is judicial information and is not subject to the OIA, as per section 2(6)(b). Therefore, I am refusing your requests under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA as the information is not held by the Ministry of Justice and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department, Minister of the Crown, organisation or local authority.

If you are interested, general information about the Family Court can be found at:

- <http://www.districtcourts.govt.nz/family-court>
- <http://www.districtcourts.govt.nz/media-information/media-releases>
- <http://www.districtcourts.govt.nz/reports-and-publications/annual-reports/>

You can also find copies of the legislation that the Family Court operates under at:

- <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1989/0024/latest/DLM147088.html> (Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 Children's and Young People's Well-being Act 1989)
- <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2002/0261/latest/DLM142995.html> (Family Court Rules 2002)
- <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2004/0090/latest/DLM317233.html> (Care of Children Act 2004)

If you require any clarification of this information contained in this response, please contact Antony Paltridge, Team Leader Media and External Relations, by calling 04 9188980 or media@justice.govt.nz

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

I trust that this information assists.

Yours sincerely



Jacquelyn Shannon

Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Ref: 67367, 67188