



# MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora*

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29 JUL 2014

Leah Trass  
Family Crisis Interventions Services  
[fyi-request-1767-d795c6fc@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-1767-d795c6fc@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Trass

Thank you for your email of 1 July 2014 with questions concerning Child, Youth and Family's policy for care and protection Family Group Conferences.

In this case, it was not necessary for you to ask your questions under the Official Information Act as the information is publicly available on Child, Youth and Family's Practice Centre.

If you go on-line to <http://www.practicecentre.cyf.govt.nz/policy/seeking-solutions-with-families/index.html> you will find information about for care and protection Family Group Conferences. As this outlines, a Family Group Conference is convened to ensure that family members understand why a child is considered in need of care and protection, and then work on an agreed plan to see these concerns addressed. The social worker will agree to a plan provided it addresses the care and protection concerns for the child. If the plan breaks down, the social worker, supervisor and care and protection co-ordinator must discuss reconvening the conference.

Review is a key component of the process. As you will see, there is no formal measure for a "successful" outcome as the plans are individual and varied. Each Family Group Conference plan will have a review date, and it is the responsibility of the care and protection co-ordinator to ensure the review happens. The conference may also be reconvened, for the purposes of review, at the request of two participating members. If there is Family Court involvement, the conference may agree that the plan can be reviewed through the Court process.

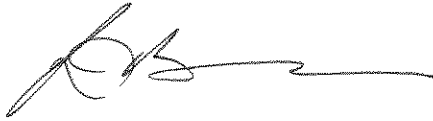
The ongoing safety and well-being of the child or young person involved are the priority consideration in these and all Child, Youth and Family processes.

If you have any questions relating to a specific Family Group Conference, you will need to direct them to the complaints process and have them addressed by the complaint reviewer.

I understand that Agnes Sefo, Manager Official and Parliamentary Information, and Toni Griffiths, Service Improvement Manager, have been in discussion with Family Crisis Interventions Services about improved and streamlined communications with the Ministry. They have explained that much of the information you have been seeking is available on-line and can be accessed directly from the Ministry's websites.

Thank you for writing. I trust this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Brown  
General Manager  
Office of Corporate and Governance