

From 9(2)(a)

Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 4:21 PM

To: 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages PR

As approved by the Minister : )



9(2)(a)

**Ministerial Advisor | Office of Hon Brooke van Velden**

**Minister of Internal Affairs**

**Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety**

**MP for Tāmaki**

**Ministerial Advisor | Office of Hon Karen Chhour**

**From:** 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 September 2024 4:14 PM  
**To:** 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: BDMRR Draft PR

9(2)(a) BDMRR advice.

9(2)(a)



9(2)(a)

**Internal Affairs Private Secretary | Office of Hon Brooke van Velden**  
Minister of Internal Affairs  
Minister for Workplace Relations  
MP for Tāmaki

9(2)(a)

**Email:** 9(2)(a) **Website:** [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

*Authorised by Hon Brooke van Velden, Parliament Buildings, Wellington*

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**From:** 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 2, 2024 4:08 PM  
**To:** 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: BDMRR Draft PR

Hey 9(2)(a)

Does this fit the bill for 9(2)(a) Happy to chat if you need but hopefully this covers the answer well enough.

9(2)(a)

Thanks for the questions and for bringing to our attention what the government website currently says on parent titles.

The parent title that the website refers to allowing parent titles who have used the human assisted reproductive procedures which is an option available under the HART Act, an administered by the Ministry of Justice - [Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004 No 92 \(as at 01 July 2023\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#). DIA is responsible for the BDMRR Act 2021 and section 12(3) will be giving effect to parent titles for all parents from 15 December 2024.

Currently, the three parent titles “mother”, “father” or parent is available to parents if requested only. This option is not automatically available to parents when notifying births in NZ.

Once section 12(3) of the BDMRR Act 2021 and supporting regulations under it come into force, each parent notifying the birth of a child under this section could specify whether they wish to appear on the child’s birth certificate as the child’s “mother”, “father”, or “parent”. So, the two parents could pick any title from “mother”, “father” or “parent”, so someone giving birth could identify as ‘father’ on a birth certificate and have their male partner also identify as father.

I have also summarised the information in a table if it’s helpful.

At present	From 15 December 2024 when section 12(3) of the BDMRR Act comes into force that the regulations will support
<p><b>Parent titles can be requested</b></p> <p>DIA has amended parent titles if there has been an error shown in how they are recorded at the time the birth was registered. This has been handled under an errors of fact process.</p>	<p><b>Parents titles will be automatically available</b></p> <p>Each parent notifying the birth of a child from 15 December 2024 could specify whether they wish to appear on the child’s birth certificate as the child’s “mother”, “father”, or “parent”.</p>
<p><b>And available to same-sex parents that have used human assisted procedures</b></p> <p>Two female parents can be listed on a birth certificate if they used human assisted reproductive procedures and were in a relationship at the time of the procedures.</p> <p>If there are 2 female parents, enter details of the mother’s partner where the form asks for the father’s details. Her details will be shown on the child’s birth registration and birth certificates as either ‘Mother’ or ‘Parent’.</p>	<p>For example, someone giving birth could identify as ‘father’ on a birth certificate and have their male partner also identify as father.</p>

**From:** 9(2)(a) <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 2, 2024 10:00 AM  
**To:** 9(2)(a) <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: BDMRR Draft PR

Thanks 9(2)(a) [redacted] this is helpful.

The govt.nz website says two female parents can both be 'mother', or one can be listed as 'parent' on birth certificates currently: <https://www.govt.nz/browse/family-and-whanau/having-a-baby/registering-a-new-baby-and-getting-a-birth-certificate/>

### **Same-sex parent titles on birth certificates**

Two female parents can be listed on a birth certificate if they used human assisted reproductive procedures and were in a relationship at the time of the procedures.

If there are 2 female parents, enter details of the mother's partner where the form asks for the father's details. Her details will be shown on the child's birth registration and birth certificates as either 'Mother' or 'Parent'.

Can we please just clarify what exactly are the current options available to parents, compared to the changes the regulations will bring.

Can we also please confirm how this will affect the recording of biological or birth-giving parents on birth certificates -currently when registering a birth you enter the details of the mother who gave birth and then the 'other parent' if applicable -will these regulations change that process? For example could someone giving birth identify as 'father' on a birth certificate and have their male partner also identify as father?

Many thanks,  
9(2)(a) [redacted]

**From:** 9(2)(a) <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 2, 2024 10:00 AM  
**To:** 9(2)(a) <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: BDMRR Draft PR

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Many thanks,  
9(2)(a) [redacted]

**From:** 9(2)(a) <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 September 2024 4:28 PM

**Subject:** PR Brooke van Velden - Better options for same-sex parents

**Hon Brooke van Velden**  
**Minister of Internal Affairs**



25 September 2024

## **Better options for same-sex parents**

Minister of Internal Affairs Brooke van Velden says the Government is delivering better flexibility for same-sex parents in New Zealand by making changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Regulations.

"Parents notifying the birth of their child will soon be able to choose whether they are named as a 'mother', 'father', or 'parent' on the child's birth certificate. This gives parents greater choice over how they identify and acknowledges same-sex couples," says Ms van Velden.

"There are many diverse families within New Zealand who will be supported to have their identity reflected on official documents. For example, two mums who may both wish to be listed as 'mother' on the birth certificate of their child."

"This Government believes in freedom of choice for individuals, and I am proud to be delivering this change to give parents greater choice," says Ms van Velden.

"The Government has agreed to bring the regulations into line with the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 2021. The regulations will be passed later this year and will be operational in December 2024."

This policy will not change the information collected by the Department about who has given birth to the child. It will also not affect current adoption laws for parents who have a child through surrogacy.

**Media contact:** 9(2)(a) <[redacted]>

From: 9(2)(a) <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>  
Sent: Wednesday, 25 September 2024 4:08 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: PR Brooke van Velden - Better options for same-sex parents

**Hon Brooke van Velden**  
**Minister of Internal Affairs**



25 September 2024

## Better options for same-sex parents

Minister of Internal Affairs Brooke van Velden says the Government is delivering better flexibility for same-sex parents in New Zealand by making changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Regulations.

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"This Government believes in freedom of choice for individuals, and I am proud to be delivering this change to give parents greater choice," says Ms van Velden.

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Media contact: 9(2)(a) <[redacted]>

**From:** 9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 11:55 AM

**To:** Brooke van Velden (MIN) <[B.vanVelden@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:B.vanVelden@ministers.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Freedom of Choice

Hi 9(2)(a)

Do you have any standard lines I can use around the changes to birth certificates, or would you like me to just send everything through to Brooke's office?

Thanks  
9(2)(a)



**From:** 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 September 2024 4:33 PM  
**To:** 9(2)(a) <@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** 9(2)(a) <@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Freedom of Choice

Hi 9(2)(a)

These are the lines I would use for the birth certificates, if people want an answer to something specific ofc you can just send it to us.

- This change will bring the regulations into line with the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 2021 that the previous Government passed. The 2021 Act was supported by ACT on the basis that it would enable greater choice and reduce Government interference in people's lives.
- This Government believes in freedom of choice for individuals and delivering better flexibility for same-sex parents.
- The Department of Internal Affairs will continue to record the same information about the mother who gives birth to the child. The change will not affect the current adoption laws for parents who have a child through surrogacy.

Thanks!  
9(2)(a)

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**From:** Brooke van Velden (MIN) <[B.vanVelden@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:B.vanVelden@ministers.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 11:59 AM  
**To:** 9(2)(a) <@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Fw: Freedom of Choice

Hey 9(2)(a) do you have a preference for how Tanya deals with these?

9(2)(a)



**Better options for same-sex parents:** we're giving parents more choice on parent titles on their child's birth certificate.

**Hon Brooke van Velden**  
Minister of Internal Affairs

image credit: <https://www.gettyimages.com>  
A photograph of two women sitting on a couch with a baby.

@Brooke Van Velden updated with a new background 🌈

2:04 pm ✓✓



27/09/2024

9(2)(a)

VV Press Sec

@Brooke Van Velden - SOCIAL MEDIA - Minister just to let you know we're going to do your social media posts today - the wrap up vid and the "Better options for same-sex parents" tile - both which you have signed off. We'll do the tile first and then later put up the vid. [FB and Insta] Cheers

9(2)(a)

Edited 3:08 pm