



## Office of Hon Amy Adams

Member of Parliament for Selwyn

Minister of Justice

Minister for Courts

Minister of Broadcasting

Minister for Communications

28 OCT 2015

Zane Collins

[fyi-request-31760120ed147@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-31760120ed147@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Collins

### Official Information Act 1982 Request

I am replying to your email of 28 September 2015 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have asked the following questions:

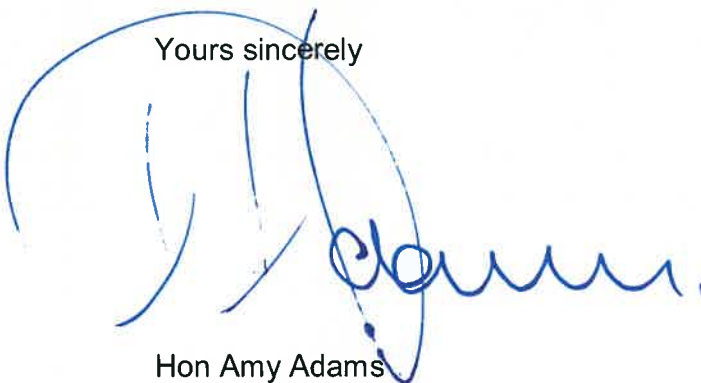
*Do you consider 'Parental Alienation' as child abuse in the family court? If no, why not? If yes, what charges or punishment the alienator parent will have if found guilty and alienating the children intentionally?*

The Act applies to information that I hold as a Minister of the Crown in my official capacity (see definition of official information in section 2 of the Act). I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act as I do not hold any information regarding these matters.

In any event, your questions appear to relate to judicial decision making. As Minister for Courts, my ministerial responsibilities are limited to ensuring New Zealand's courts receive the resources they require to make decisions in cases before them. To maintain public confidence in the independence of our courts, it is important that I cannot, and cannot be seen to, influence their decisions. For these reasons, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on how the judiciary should make decisions in individual cases.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision to refuse your request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by writing to PO Box 10-152, Wellington.

Yours sincerely



Hon Amy Adams  
Minister for Courts

Ref: 54996