



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

31 JUL 2013

Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington 6011, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140 • Telephone: 0-4-916 3300 • Facsimile: 0-4-918 0099

Leigh Baillie

fyi-request-962-adb09462@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Baillie

Thank you for your email of 27 June 2013 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- 1. What are the specific expectations and instructions given to individuals or organisations when instructed to provide supervision during access?*
- 2. What specific training and police checks are given to supervisors of access visits?*

Organisations that are funded through Child, Youth and Family to provide supervised contact between children and their non-resident parent/s must maintain Child, Youth and Family Approval. This process assesses the quality, management and administration of the providers against consistent standards that meet legislative requirements. The Child, Youth and Family Standards for Approval are available online at: www.cyf.govt.nz/documents/working-with-others/standards-of-approval.pdf

All providers that are contracted with the Ministry are expected to adhere to service guidelines. The 2012 guidelines can be found on the Ministry website at: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/service-guidelines/supervised-access-service-guidelines.pdf

People who can supervise access include:

- Family members or family friends assessed by a social worker as being suitable and safe
- Community organisations providing a specialised service approved by Child, Youth and Family (CYF)
- A pool of selected and trained individuals approved by CYF
- CYF social workers.

The approval of individuals/family members/family friends will involve the completion of an assessment of the prospective contact supervisor's attitudes, knowledge, skills and personal attributes, along with police, referee and medical checks. Approval can only be given by a social work supervisor.

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When a child/young person has been permanently placed, contact can be supervised by his or her caregivers. This provides the child or young person with the opportunity to experience the new caregivers in the parenting role as their supporter and protector, and also helps the parents and caregivers to develop a relationship with each other. You can find information on the Caregiver assessment and approval policy on the Child, Youth and Family practice Centre at <http://practicecentre.cyf.govt.nz/policy/caregiver-assessment-and-approval/index.html>

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Agnes Sefo', written in a cursive style.

Agnes Sefo

Manager, Official and Parliamentary Information