

# Care of children: Lawyers working with children



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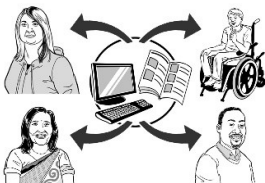


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# What this Easy Read is about



This Easy Read document has been written by the Ministry of Justice.



This Easy Read document has information about what you need to know if you are going through the **Family Court**.

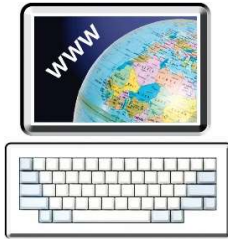


The **Family Court** is a court that assists New Zealanders with family matters.



There are 58 Family Courts throughout New Zealand.

You can find more Easy Read information about the care of children and the Family Court on this **website**:



**[www.justice.govt.nz/care-of-children/resources](http://www.justice.govt.nz/care-of-children/resources)**



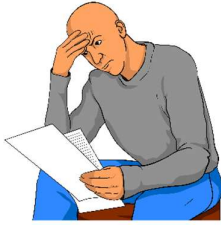
This is a long Easy Read document.

Some things you can do to make reading it easier are:



- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.

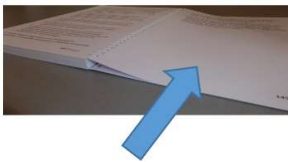




While this document has been written in Easy Read there is still a lot of complex information.



It is a good idea to get further advice.



On **pages 13 to 23** you can find information about places where you can get advice and support.



If you or someone you know does not feel safe right now you can:

- phone the police on **phone: 111**
- contact **Are You OK** on:



**phone: 0800 456 450**

**website: [www.areyouok.org.nz](http://www.areyouok.org.nz)**



**Are You OK** is an information service that can help you if you:

- are being hurt by someone
- see someone being hurt
- want to stop hurting someone.



You can also find more information on the Ministry of Justice **website**:

**[www.justice.govt.nz/family-violence](http://www.justice.govt.nz/family-violence)**



There are lots of phone numbers in this Easy Read document.



If you find it hard to use the phone the **New Zealand Relay** service is for people who are:

- Deaf / hard of hearing
- deafblind
- speech impaired / find it hard to talk.



You can find out more about the New Zealand Relay service at:



**[www.nzrelay.co.nz](http://www.nzrelay.co.nz)**

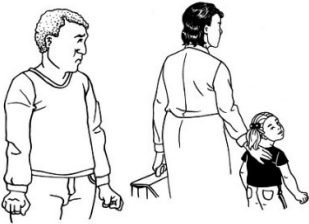
# What does a Lawyer for Child do?



People sometimes go to the Family Court because of a change in family situation.



A change in family situation could mean:



- people decide to no longer live together
- it is best for the child / children to live with someone that is not their parents
- a disagreement about how to raise the child / children.



Sometimes a judge may decide that a child needs to have their own lawyer.





This is called a **Lawyer for Child**.



The Lawyer for Child works to help the judge understand what:

- things are like for the child
- is best for the child.



As part of their work the lawyer may talk to the child:



- to find out how the family way of life has changed
- about what happens in court.



The lawyer might also spend time with the people in the child's life like:

- whānau / family
- teachers
- social workers.



You do not have to speak to the lawyer if you do not want to.



The Lawyer for Child is:

- only there to represent / speak for the child
- not there for anyone else involved in the court case.





You should talk to your lawyer if you think someone is telling a child what to say.



The court may get a **specialist** to take a closer look at what is happening.



A **specialist** may be someone like a **psychologist**.



A **psychologist** can:

- listen to how the child is feeling about the changes in the family way of life
- write a report for the Court about what is happening for the child.



# Paying the Lawyer for Child



The government pays for some of the cost of the Lawyer for Child.



The judge will then decide who will pay the rest of the cost of the lawyer.

This may be the:



- parents / guardians
- someone else involved in the court case.

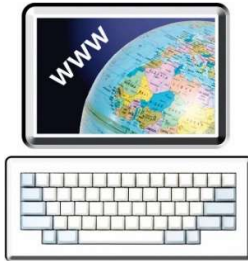


If this happens it is called a **Cost Contribution Order**.



You can find out more about **Cost Contribution Orders**:

- at this website:



**[www.justice.govt.nz/family-court-costs](http://www.justice.govt.nz/family-court-costs)**

- by phoning:

**0800 224 733**



# Places where you can get support



## 1. Family Court

The Family Court has **staff** that can assist people with the forms needed and next steps.



**Staff** are people who work at the Family Court.



Staff include:

- Kaiārahi / Family Court Navigators
- Family Court Co-ordinators
- Front counter staff.





Staff at the Family Court **cannot** give you legal advice.



You can talk to staff by:

- visiting the Family Court closest to you

- emailing:

**[kaiarahi@justice.govt.nz](mailto:kaiarahi@justice.govt.nz)**

- calling the Ministry of Justice on:

**0800 224 733**



## 2. Citizens Advice Bureau

Citizens Advice Bureau is also sometimes called **CAB**.



CAB can assist you to:

- understand your rights
- fill out forms.



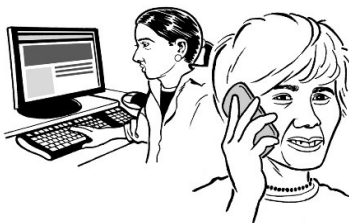
To find out more information about CAB you can:

- go to this website:

**[www.cab.org.nz](http://www.cab.org.nz)**

- call this phone number:

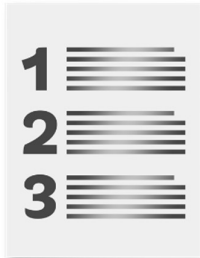
**0800 367 222**





### 3. Family Services Directory

The Family Services Directory:

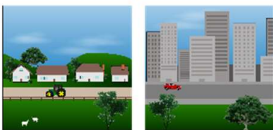


- has a list of support services that can assist whānau / family across Aotearoa New Zealand

- is an information service about all kinds of services such as:



- counselling
- housing / somewhere to live
- help with the cost of living such as food



- disability support
- transport



and much more.



To find out more information about Family Services Directory you can:

- visit their website:

**[www.familyservices.govt.nz](http://www.familyservices.govt.nz)**



- call this phone number:

**0800 211 211**



## 4. CCS Disability Action

CCS Disability Action provides information and support to:



- disabled people
- their whānau / family.

To find out more information about CCS Disability Action you can:



- visit this website:

**[www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz](http://www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz)**

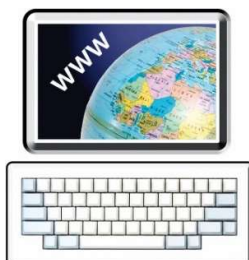
- email:

**[info@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz](mailto:info@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz)**



- phone:

**0800 227 200**



## 5. 1737: Need to Talk

At 1737: Need to Talk you can talk to a counsellor by:

- calling: **1737**
- texting: **1737**

1737: Need to Talk is open all day / night.

If the 1737 number does not work from your phone you can call this number:

**0800 1737 1737**

You can find out more about 1737: Need to Talk on this **website**:

**[www.1737.org.nz](http://www.1737.org.nz)**

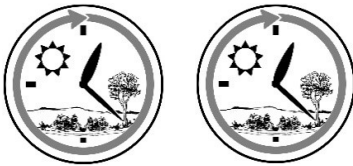


## 6. Lifeline Aotearoa

At Lifeline you can talk to a trained counsellor by:



- calling: **0800 543 354**
- texting: **4357**



Lifeline is open all day / night.



You can find more information about Lifeline on their website:

**[www.lifeline.org.nz](http://www.lifeline.org.nz)**



## 7. Skylight

At Skylight you can talk to a trained counsellor.



You can talk to a counsellor if you are going through a difficult time.



You can phone:

**0800 299 100**



You can find more information about Skylight on their website:

**[www.skylight.org.nz](http://www.skylight.org.nz)**



## 8. 0800 What's Up

0800 What's Up is a counselling service for:



- tamariki / children
- rangatahi / young people.



Children and young people can:

- phone:

**0800 942 8787**

- chat online at:

**[www.whatsup.co.nz](http://www.whatsup.co.nz)**



You can find more information about 0800 What's Up on their **website**:

**[www.whatsup.co.nz](http://www.whatsup.co.nz)**



## 9. Youthline

Youthline is a counselling service for:

- tamariki / children
- rangatahi / young people.



Children and young people can:

- phone: **0800 376 633**
- text: **234**
- chat online:



**[www.youthline.co.nz](http://www.youthline.co.nz)**



You can find more information about Youthline on their website:

**[www.youthline.co.nz](http://www.youthline.co.nz)**



## Where to find more information



The Ministry of Justice has more information about parenting arrangements on their website:

**[www.justice.govt.nz/care-of-children](http://www.justice.govt.nz/care-of-children)**



You can also talk to someone at the Ministry of Justice by calling:

**0800 224 733**



This information has been written by Ministry of Justice.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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