



KŌNAE My Records Guide

**How do I ask for adoption,
fostering, whāngai or whānau
care records?**



Published: June 2026

About this Easy Read

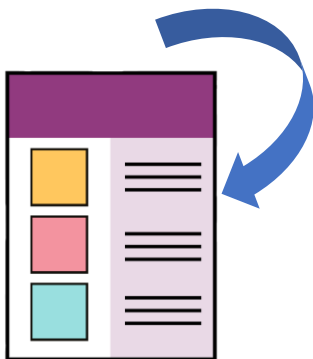


This Easy Read is about how you can ask for **records** of:

- **adoption**
- **fostering**
- **whāngai**
- **whānau care.**

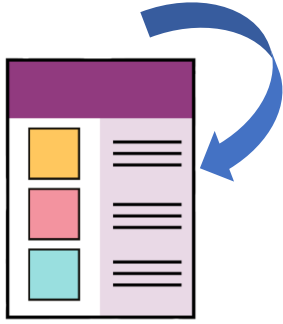


Here **records** means the information an organisation has kept / made about a person.



Information about getting **adoption records** is on **pages 4 to 8.**

Information about getting **whāngai records** is on **pages 9 to 12.**



Information about getting **foster and whānau care records** is on **pages 13 to 14**.



This Easy Read is of a webpage from the website **Kōnae – My Records Guide**.

KŌNAE My Records Guide

Kōnae – My Records Guide is a website that supports you to get your records from when you were in care.



The website is called Kōnae for short.



The **website** is at:

www.konae.org.nz



The **Citizens Advice Bureau** is the kaitiaki / guardian of Kōnae.



The **Citizens Advice Bureau**

provides free advice to people about things like:

- **rights**
- how to get the services you need.

Rights are things that you should get to live a good life.

Everyone has a right to things like:

- housing
- being safe
- having enough food to eat.

Getting adoption records



Adoption means people who are not the **birth parents**:

- take a child using the law / rules made by the government

and

- bring the child up as their own.



Birth parents are the parents when a child is born.



Adoption in Aotearoa New Zealand normally means **formal adoption**.



A **formal adoption** is when the **Family Court** makes an **adoption order**.



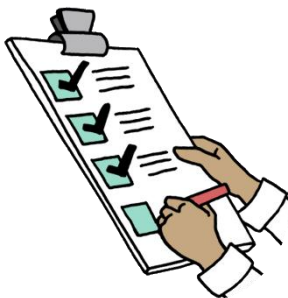
The **Family Court** is a court that takes care of things like:

- adoption
- divorce / a couple splitting up
- agreements for parents who share looking after children.



An **adoption order** is the official document that:

- makes the adoptive parents the parents of a child
- says the **birth parents** are no longer the parents.



After the formal adoption is made by the Family Court it is listed by **Births Deaths and Marriages**.



Births Deaths and Marriages is the Government agency that keeps all the official information about when people:

- are born
- die
- get married / have a civil union.



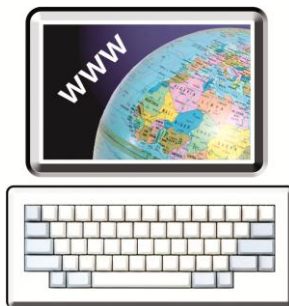
There are ways to get your records if you were adopted in Aotearoa New Zealand.

You can ask for your **pre-adoptive birth certificate** from Births, Deaths and Marriages.



A **pre-adoptive birth certificate** has information on it like your:

- birth name
- birth parents
- parents who adopted you
- when your adoption order was made.

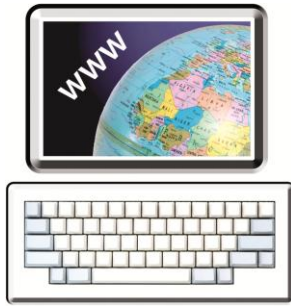


You can find out how to get your pre-adoptive birth certificate at this **webpage**:

www.konae.org.nz/b-c



This webpage has information in Easy Read.

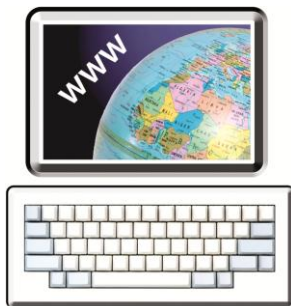


Information on how you can ask for your adoption records from Oranga Tamariki is on this webpage:

www.konae.org.nz/ot-ad

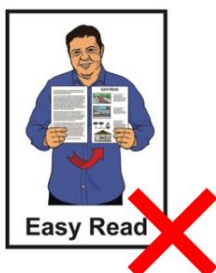


This webpage has information in Easy Read.



Information on how you can ask for your adoption records from the Family Court is on this **webpage**:

www.konae.org.nz/court-ad



This webpage is **not** in Easy Read.

Getting whāngai records



Whāngai is **customary** Māori adoption.



Customary means of a group of people like Māori doing something using their:

- rules
- ideas.



The people who raise the tamaiti / child are often whānau / family members like grandparents.



Whāngai is used to make strong relationships between:

- whānau / family
- hapū / community
- iwi / tribe.

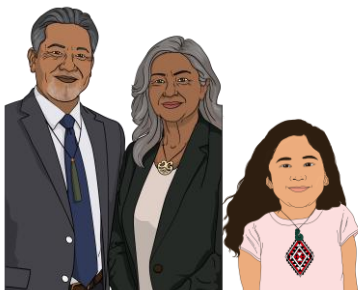


The tamaiti / child may know their:

- birth parents

and

- whāngai parents.



Many people in the whānau / family will usually have been part of the whāngai decision.



Whāngai can be:

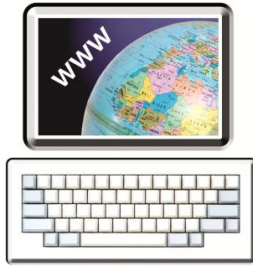
- a formal adoption
- made using traditional tikanga / Māori ways of doing things

or

- both.

If the government was part of the whāngai there will be records of your:

- whāngai
- whānau care.



You can find more information about asking for your whāngai records at this **webpage**:

www.konae.org.nz/whangai



This webpage is **not** in Easy Read.

Getting foster and whānau care records



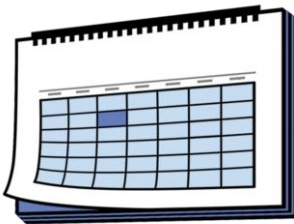
Foster care / fostering is when Oranga Tamariki arranges for a child to be looked after by someone.



The person who looks after the child is usually not the birth parent of the child.



Oranga Tamariki calls this caregiving.



Foster care / fostering can be:

- for a short while
- for a long time
- permanent / until the child grows up into an adult.



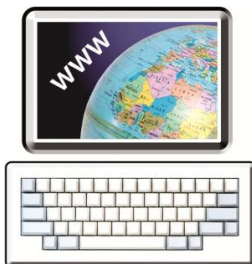


A child can also be fostered by a:

- whānau / family member
- friend of the family.



This is called whānau care.



You can find information about getting your foster care / fostering records from Oranga Tamariki at this webpage:

www.konae.org.nz/ot



This webpage has some information in Easy Read.

Getting support



Asking for your records can make you feel all sorts of things.



It can be good to have someone to talk to about it.

You can talk to your:



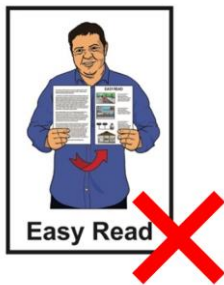
- whānau / family
- friends
- support person.

Kōnae has information on where to get support if you want to talk about how it feels to get your records.



Find out what support you can get at this **webpage**:

www.konae.org.nz/support



This website is **not** in Easy Read.



This information has been written by the Citizens Advice Bureau.



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



The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



All images used in this Easy Read document are subject to copyright rules and cannot be used without permission.



Make it Easy uses images from:



- Photosymbols
- Change Images
- Huriana Kopeke-Te Aho
- SGC Image Works
- T Wood
- Studio Rebeko
- Inga Kramer.