



# **KŌNAE** My Records Guide



## **What records does Oranga Tamariki have?**



**Published: May 2025**

## About this Easy Read

**Commented [AF1]:** NB: This section was rearranged.  
No information was changed.



This Easy Read is about what **records Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children** has about:

- your **guardianship**
- when you were **in care**.



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



Information about **Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children** is on **pages 5 to 6**.



Here **guardianship** is when an adult is put in charge of the care of a person.

A guardian should:

- take care of the person
- keep the person safe.



Here **in care** means when an organisation is put in charge of a person.

The organisation decides for the person things like:

- where they live
- who is their carer
- their upbringing.





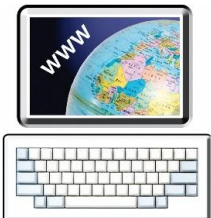
This Easy Read is of a webpage from the website **Kōnae – My Records Guide**.

**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.

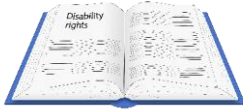


The Kōnae **website** is found at:

**[www.konae.org.nz](http://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 kept safe
- having enough food to eat.

## What is Oranga Tamariki?

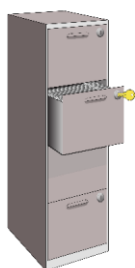


Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children is a government agency that keeps:

- children safe
- young people safe.



In this document **Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children** will be called **Oranga Tamariki**.



Oranga Tamariki looks after the records:

- they make
- made by **child protection services** in the past.



Here **child protection services** means agencies like Oranga Tamariki that look after children when they:

- might be treated badly
- cannot be looked after properly by their family
- have no family.



Oranga Tamaraki has records from:

- Child Youth and Family Services / CYFS
- Department of Social Welfare
- the Child Welfare Division of the Education Department.



## What does Oranga Tamariki make records about?



Oranga Tamariki should have records about you if you were:

- adopted
- in a welfare institution
- in foster care
- in a family home
- with foster parents
- living with a member of your bigger whānau /family
- in a government **institution.**







Here an **institution** is a place where you lived while you were in care like:

- a care home
- a hospital
- a school.

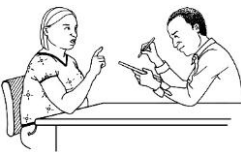
Oranga Tamariki should have records about you if there was a concern / worry brought up about your:

- guardianship
- care.



The records Oranga Tamariki are likely to have include:

- notes from social workers
- reports about:
  - you
  - your family.
- notes from talks had with:
  - you
  - your parents
  - your caregivers
- documents about:
  - money
  - other parts of your life.





Oranga Tamariki also has records about their:

- residences
- homes
- institutions
- policies / rules for looking after children.



## What records might be missing from Oranga Tamariki?



Sometimes records might:

- be missing
- not exist anymore.

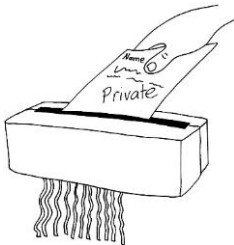


Oranga Tamariki were told in April 2017 not to destroy any more records.



A record might be missing because it was:

- moved without anyone being told
- destroyed using old rules about records.





A record might also be missing because it was damaged by something like a:

- fire
- flood
- earthquake.



## What did old agencies do with records?



There were some old rules that let **disposal of records** be done by child protection agencies.



**Disposal of records** can mean:

- destroying them
- moving them to **Archives New Zealand**
- putting them in storage.

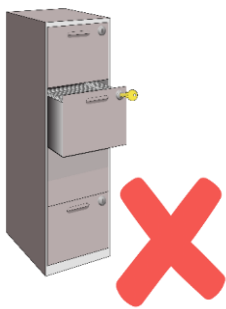


**Archives New Zealand** is a place where old government documents are:

- stored
- looked after.

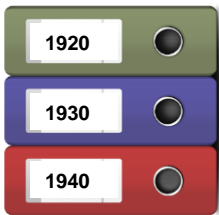


You can still ask for your Oranga Tamariki records if they have been moved to Archives New Zealand.



Some examples of disposal of records are:

- the Child Welfare Division of the Education department disposing of records if they:
  - did not have space
  - had old records
- the Department of Social Welfare disposing of:
  - personal records
  - records about children in care.



## Getting support



Learning about what records Oranga Tamariki has about your care 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 you 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](http://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.



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