

# **KŌNAE** My Records Guide

## **What does it mean when information is redacted?**



**Published: May 2025**

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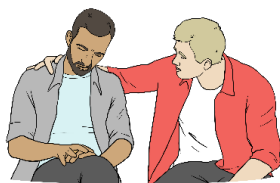
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# About this Easy Read

## KŌNAE My Records Guide

This Easy Read is about what it means when:

- you get your **records** about when you were **in care**



and

- they have been **redacted**.



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



Here **in care** means when an organisation is put in charge of a person and decides things like:

- where they live
- who is their:
  - **guardian**
  - carer
- their upbringing.



A **guardian** is an adult put in charge of the care of a person.

A guardian should:

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





The information about what it means when your records are **redacted** is on **pages 7 to 8**.



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 the Kōnae website.



The **Citizens Advice Bureau** provides free advice to people about things like:

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



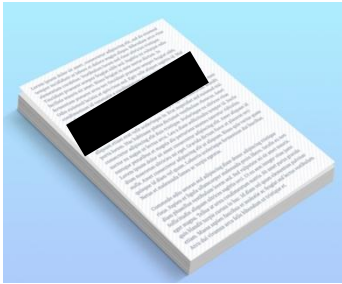
**Rights** are things that you should get to live a good life.

For example everyone has a right to things like:

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



# What does it mean when my records are redacted?



**Redact** means hiding / taking out some information in a document.

This could be because there is information about other people in your record.



This is often done with a thick black line.



An organisation may redact some of the information on the records you have asked for.





They will tell you this by saying something like we need to **assess** your records.



Here **assess** means to:

- look at the records you have asked for
- decide if any information needs to be redacted.



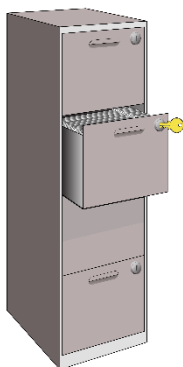
Learn more about redactions at this Kōnae **webpage**:

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

# Why are my records redacted?

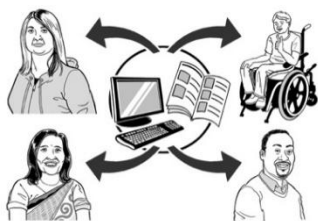


Organisations have to follow the **Privacy Act**.



The **Privacy Act** is a law that tells organisations how information must be:

- collected
- stored
- used
- shared.



The Privacy Act says you can only see information about you.



This protects the privacy of other people.



For example records may have information redacted about other people in your whānau / family.



Sometimes you can get records that have information about another person.



To do this the person has to:

- agree to this
- and
- tell the organisation by saying yes in writing.





Some organisations keep information about:

- whānau / families

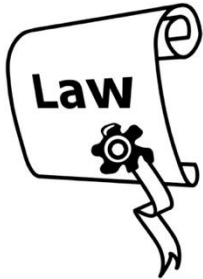
and

- not an individual / 1 person.



Your records may have a lot of information about your whānau / family redacted.

# What is legally privileged information?

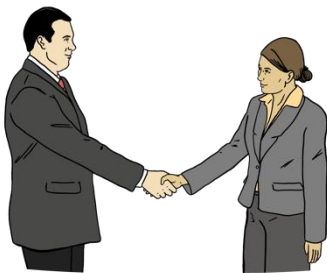


Sometimes the information you ask for is **legally privileged**.



**Legally privileged** means information is protected between:

- someone like a **lawyer**
- and
- their client.



For example your lawyer can only share your information with somebody else if you agree to this.



A **lawyer** is a person you usually pay to give you advice about the law.



Legally privileged information can be something like information between:

- the staff of an organisation

and

- its lawyers.



Legally privileged information can also be information made to support a **court case**.



Here a **court case** is when a problem is worked out at the court in a legal way.



An organisation cannot give you legally privileged information.

# Adoption records

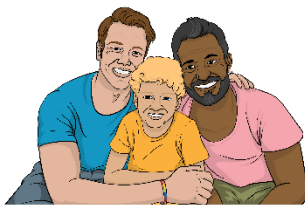


Some **adoption** records may be redacted.



Here **adoption** is a legal word that means:

- a family legally take the child of another person
- and
- raise the child as their own.



Adoption records may be redacted if:

- you were adopted under a **closed adoption**

and

- it was before 1 March 1986.

A **closed adoption** is between the:

- adoptive parents

and

- **birth parents.**

They do not:

- have contact with each other
- know anything about each other.





**Birth parents** are the parents when the baby was born.

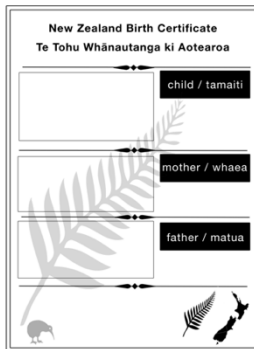


You can ask for your **birth certificate** from a closed adoption.



A **birth certificate** is a legal document that has information like:

- the date your were born
- who your parents are.



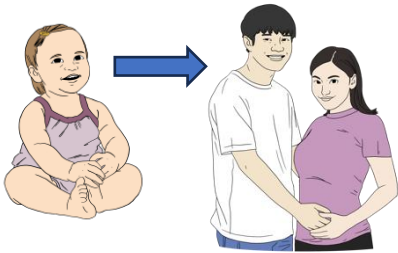
A birth certificate from a closed adoption is called a pre-adoptive birth certificate.



You will need to be 20 years or older to ask for a pre-adoptive birth certificate.



Your birth parents may have said no to putting their names on your birth certificate.



A birth parent can say no to you seeing information about them when you turn 19 years old.



You can find out more information about how to ask for a pre-adoptive birth certificate at this Kōnae **webpage:**

**[www.konae.org.nz/b-c](http://www.konae.org.nz/b-c)**

# Ways information can be redacted



Records can be:

- digital information sent to you by email
- printed information.



Organisations redact records in different ways.



Records can be redacted by hiding the information under a black box.

## Privacy Act



Records can also be redacted by:

- putting a grey box over the text

and

- putting the name of the law in red words to tell you the law they are following.

They can also be redacted by:

- taking out the information

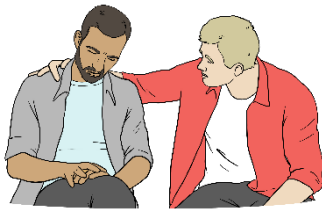
and

- telling you why they have done this.

## Getting support



Getting your records about when you were in care can make you feel lots 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)**



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