



Policy taken from the Family Works National Operations Manual for Casework Services

3.2 National Family Works Policy: Family Violence

3.2.1 Policy Statement

The safety of whānau and families is fundamental to their wellbeing. Family Works is committed to supporting whānau and families to be violence free.

Services will be delivered competently, in collaboration with other agencies where possible, and in accordance with Family Violence and Child Protection legislation.

Services to Whānau Māori will be provided in accordance with the partnership, participation, and protection principles inherent in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Family Works regions will have their own procedures that best fit the agency setting to meet the requirements of this policy.

3.2.2 Outcomes

Tamariki and rangatahi and their whānau and families will receive the services they require in a culturally appropriate way; maximise their safety and wellbeing; and protect them from harm.

3.2.3 Scope

This policy applies to all Family Works staff.

3.2.4 Family Violence

Family Works understands that Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a form of family violence and impacts the whole whānau and family.

When tamariki and rangatahi witness Family Violence, they suffer harm to their wellbeing and may also be at risk of other forms of child abuse.

Elder abuse, and the abuse of people with disabilities who rely on the care of others, are forms of family violence (*see definitions below and references at the end of this policy*).

Section 9 of the Family Violence Act defines family violence as ‘...violence inflicted against another person by any other person with whom that person is, or has been, in a family relationship. This could be their spouse or partner, or family member, or someone they ordinarily share a household with, or have a close personal relationship with. Violence (physical, sexual or psychological abuse)

includes coercive or controlling behaviour, or a pattern of behaviour which may cause harm or cumulative harm’.

Section 11 of the Act describes a range of behaviours constituting psychological abuse where the relationship fits the description above, and includes:

- threats of any kind of abuse;
- intimidation or harassment - watching, loitering near, preventing, or hindering access to or from a person’s house, work, or education setting, or any other place that the person visits often;
- following a person or stopping a person in any place, and where it constitutes a trespass;
- damage to property;
- ill-treatment of pets, or any animal where the ill-treatment is likely to affect the wellbeing of the victim;
- financial or economic abuse – including denying or limiting access to financial resources, or restricting access to employment or education;
- hindering or withdrawal of care, or the threat to do so, of someone who by reason of age, disability, health condition, or any other cause, where doing so will affect the person’s quality of life;
- hindering or removing (or threatening to hinder or remove) access to any aid or device, medication, or other support that affects, or is likely to affect the person’s quality of life;
- tamariki suffer psychological abuse when they witness or hear the physical, sexual, or psychological abuse of someone they have a family relationship with. The person responsible for the abuse is regarded as causing this harm to the tamariki. The adult victim of the family violence is not regarded as being responsible for the harm.

3.2.5 Definitions

Co-occurrence of Intimate Partner Violence and child maltreatment: Tamariki and rangatahi who are exposed to the impacts of both family violence including intimate partner violence (IPV) and are directly abused.

Cumulative harm: Cumulative harm is the outcome of exposure to multiple episodes of abuse and/or neglect and/or family violence. *(See references below).*

Elder Abuse and neglect: A single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.³ *(ref. Action on Elder Abuse, 2004; WHO/INPEA, 2002 in Ministry of Health Family Violence Intervention Guidelines: Elder Abuse and Neglect).*

Family Violence: Family violence means violence inflicted against another person by any other person with whom that person is, or has been, in a family relationship. This could be their spouse or partner, or family member, or someone they ordinarily share a household with, or have a close

personal relationship with. Violence (physical, sexual, or psychological abuse), coercive or controlling behaviour, or a pattern of behaviour which may cause harm or cumulative harm (*ref. section 9, Family Violence Act (2018)*).

Harm: The term used to describe physical or psychological abuse, deprivation or neglect that causes damage or injury, including harm caused by a person against another, and self-harm. (*The Oranga Tamariki Act (1989) Section 14AA provides definitions of serious harm*).

Intimate Partner Violence: Intimate partner violence is a form of family violence and refers to any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological, or sexual harm to those in the relationship. (*See Ministry of Health reference below*).

3.2.6 Protocols

1. Family Works services will assess Family Violence risk and offer safety planning for client whānau, and families where needed.
2. Family Works practitioners and services will assess tamariki and rangatahi safety and wellbeing where Family Violence is present.
3. Practitioners will consult with their designated person for tamariki safety when they have concerns regarding Family Violence, or if Family Violence has been disclosed.
4. In completing an assessment of whether Family Violence is occurring, practitioners will consider requesting and sharing information with other organisations (Police, Oranga Tamariki, Health providers or other community organisations) as appropriate. The Ministry of Justice Information Sharing Guidance (see references below), Oranga Tamariki Information Sharing Guidelines, and regional procedures will guide this.
5. In all cases, client consent will be sought before requesting or sharing information where tamariki, rangatahi and whānau and family safety will not be compromised in doing so.
6. All clients are enabled and encouraged to participate in all aspects of service provision.
7. Family Works services and practitioners will be competent to assess and address the often complex safety and wellbeing needs of tamariki and rangatahi and their whānau and families where Family Violence is present, or where past Family Violence impacts on their ability to reach their potential.

3.2.7 References

Age Concern: What does elder abuse look like?

https://www.ageconcern.org.nz/ACNZPublic/Services/EANP/ACNZ_Public/Elder_Abuse_and_Neglect.aspx

Family Violence Act (2018)

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2018/0046/latest/whole.html>

Family Violence Clearinghouse articles on the co-occurrence of Family Violence and Child Abuse

<https://nzfvc.org.nz/recommended-reading/intervention-IPV-and-CAN>

Ministry of Health Family Violence Assessment and Intervention Guidelines

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/family-violence/family-violence-questions-and-answers>

Family Violence Intervention Guidelines: Elder Abuse and Neglect

<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/family-violence-intervention-guidelines-elder-abuse-and-neglect>

Ministry of Justice Information Sharing Guidance

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/key-initiatives/reducing-family-and-sexual-violence/a-new-family-violence-act/information-sharing-guidance/>

Oranga Tamariki Act (1989)

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1989/0024/latest/DLM147088.html>

Oranga Tamariki Practice Standards

<https://practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/practice-standards/ensure-safety-and-wellbeing/definitions-of-abuse- neglect-and-harm/cumulative-harm/>