

New bill introduced – Family Court (Supporting Children in Court) Legislation Bill

Yesterday, Minister of Justice Andrew Little [announced](#) the introduction of the Family Court (Supporting Children in Court) Legislation Bill. The bill amends the Care of Children and the Family Dispute Resolution Acts to establish children’s participation as a guiding principle. It provides express reference to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and establishes appointment criteria for the child’s lawyer to ensure that they are suitably qualified in terms of personality, cultural background, training, and experience, to represent the child or young person. Click [here](#) to view the bill. The FLS will be forming a working group to draft the Law Society’s response to the bill.

CLE webinar

As at 1 July this year, legal representation has been restored in all proceedings under the Care of Children Act, and the Legal Services Act was amended to allow the provision of legal aid for eligible parties in COCA proceedings. The FLS has worked closely with NZLS CLE Ltd and is pleased to announce that registrations are now open for a webinar that will be presented on 31 August. The webinar will consider the “do’s and don’ts” of without notice applications including when not to use them and when to proceed. It will also provide practical guidance for framing effective without notice and on notice applications and affidavits which will help ensure that you are able to assist your clients effectively. Click [here](#) to register.

New Tauranga regional representative

The FLS executive welcomes the appointment of David Calderwood as the FLS regional representative in Tauranga until June 2023. The executive thanks Penni Eagle and Holly Hawkins for their work in the role over the past few months and look forward to working with David as the new regional representative.

New FLS member logo

As part of the Law Society's branding project, the FLS member logo and associated guidelines for use have been updated. A te reo Māori FLS member logo has also been created. Various sizes of the logo are available for letterhead, email and website to make it easier for you to apply to your various marketing material. If you would like to use the FLS member logo, please click [here](#) to download a licensing agreement and email this to family@lawsociety.org.nz. Once you have completed the agreement, we will send you the artwork to download and the guidelines for use. The FLS member logo is available for use to all FLS members who have completed a licensing agreement – there is no fee associated with its use. We hope all members will consider using the logo as part of their marketing material.

CPD and supervision – lawyer for child best practice guidelines

There have been some concerns from members about the newly issued lawyer for child practice note and FLS best practice guidelines in relation to CPD and professional supervision requirements. These requirements were already included in the previous version of the best practice guidelines issued on 23.2.18 (see paras 13.4 and 13.5 of the 2018 guidelines). The CPD requirement of five hours in the current guidelines has actually reduced from the previous requirements (9.5 hours) and can be part of the overall ten hours of CPD required by the New Zealand Law Society's CPD scheme. In terms of professional supervision, this is a practising well issue and is a requirement of many professions, including family mediators who may or may not be FDR providers. The frequency of supervision is dependent on the nature and extent of an individual's lawyer for child practice. For example, if lawyers are only involved in a small number of cases a year, the frequency of supervision will be less than those lawyers whose practice includes a large percentage of lawyer for child work. It is up to individual lawyers to use their judgement in terms of the frequency of that supervision.

Click [here](#) for more information and guidance on professional supervision. The next story in the FLS practising well initiative “our stories” series will be on the topic of supervision.

Free Oranga Tamariki webinars – coming up

The FLS is working closely with Oranga Tamariki and are pleased to advise that OT have agreed to present a series of webinars for members to attend free of charge on four discrete areas of the OT Act:

- Section 7AA
- Transition to independence
- Family Group Conferences and the role of hapu and iwi in FGCs
- Special guardianship and permanency.

These seminars are focussed on areas in which both social work practice and the law are still evolving. In addition, the webinars will be able to be used as LFC CPD points. We are still working to finalise content and dates for these seminars and will keep you updated as details become available.

Caroline Hickman
FLS Chair