

Information requests to Police – lawyer for child

The FLS has been working with Police and the Privacy Commission on streamlining the information requests to Police from lawyers for children. This is to ensure that the information provided is nationally consistent, as unredacted as possible and is produced in a consistently timely way. We are pleased to provide a finalised template letter for members to use when requesting this information. This letter is the culmination of a significant amount of work by the executive including multiple meetings with the Police and the Privacy Commission in order to achieve a template that meets the court's need for safety information while adequately protecting third party privacy interests. Click [here](#) to access the letter which will also be available in the members' area of the FLS website.

Ministry of Justice – escalation list

The ministry has provided an escalation list for FLS members to use if issues arise at a local registry level that cannot be resolved by registry staff. Examples might include the local scheduling of conferences or hearings or any case management issues relating to a particular case. It is important that members attempt to resolve matters first with the registry staff before elevating the issue to a more senior ministry manager. Click [here](#) for contact details of those managers who may be able to assist you.

New FLS member logo

Some time ago, we advised members about the updated FLS member logo, including a new Te Reo Māori FLS member logo, as part of the Law Society's new branding project. We notice that some members are still using the old member logo and it is important you update this to the new logo. If you would like to use the FLS member logo, and are not yet registered, please click [here](#) to download a licensing agreement and email this to family@lawsociety.org.nz. Once you have completed the licensing 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.

Communications with Oranga Tamariki staff

One of the new amendments to the Rules of Conduct and Client Care is that a lawyer must treat all persons they are dealing with in a professional capacity with respect and courtesy. The rules have been agreed by the Law Society's council and are likely to come into force next year. The proposed new rules are part of the work the Law Society has been doing around workplace culture. The FLS is keen to encourage harmonious and courteous relationships between lawyers and all agencies they come into contact with, such as Police or Oranga Tamariki (including the ministry's lawyers and social workers). We draw to your attention a recent standards committee [decision](#) where discourteous and unprofessional behaviour by a lawyer was upheld as a breach of the Rules of Conduct and Client Care.

Family Court (Supporting Children in Court) Legislation Bill

On 8 December, the Family Court (Supporting Children in Court) Legislation Bill had its first reading and was referred to the Justice select committee. The due date for submissions is 28 February 2021, and the committee has to report back to the House on 8 June 2021. For those interested, [click](#) here to read the first reading debate. An FLS working group, established some months ago, has already completed a significant amount of work in this area and are currently preparing the Law Society's submission on the bill.

Family law conference

We have been discussing the date and venue of the next NZLS CLE Ltd family law conference with CLE and hope to be able to advise members of this date very soon. It is likely to be held in early November 2021.

Seminar - Cross examination of psychologists – Wellington – save the date seminars

The Hutt Valley, Wellington and Porirua FLS regional representatives have confirmed dates for early next year for a seminar on the cross examination of psychologists:

Hutt Valley – Tuesday, 16 February, 5.30pm

Wellington – Wednesday 24 February, 5.30pm

Porirua – Friday, 26 February, 5.30pm

The seminars will begin with drinks and nibbles from 5.00pm with presentations starting at 5.30pm. We are currently confirming venues and will update members in the new year. In the meantime, please mark your diaries.

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