

Clinical: Mental Health  
Proactive Release : 29 August 2019



14 August 2019



### **Official Information Act (1982) Request**

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 07 August 2019. You requested the following information:

#### **What your CAMHS providers' policy is regarding:**

- 1. When/ if they disclose to family that they are assessing/treating a young person;**
- 2. Whether they require caregivers' consent for a young person to access services (if so, what occurs if whanau does not consent);**
- 3. And whether there are additional considerations made (e.g. the age of the young person, their capacity to consent, cultural considerations).**

The Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) response is:

The CM Health organisation-wide "Informed Consent Policy and Clinical Guidelines" (**attached**) apply to all clinicians and services working in our organisation, including the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The guidelines outline the requirements and considerations for gaining consent from children and young people; and factors such as involvement of other people, including family/ whanau members, or other support persons.

These guidelines are informed by, and consistent with guidance provided by professional bodies (such as the NZ Medical Council), and the Ministry of Health. They also align with the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights, and section 38 of the Care of Children Act 2004.

More information about our Child and Youth Mental Health services, including initial contact with services, and the range of services we provide, including supporting family/ whanau, is publicly available:

- <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/mental-health-addictions/mental-health-addictions/counties-manukau-health-taunaki-te-puawaitanga-1/>

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Apa', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Counties Manukau Health**