



Parenting Arrangements After Separation Study (PASS): Evaluating the 2014 Family Law Reforms

Thank you for your interest in this study. Please read this information carefully before deciding whether to participate. If you decide to participate we thank you. If you decide not to take part there will be no disadvantage to you and we thank you for considering our request.

Information Sheet for
Family Justice Professionals

What is the Aim of the Study?

The Faculty of Law and the Children's Issues Centre at the University of Otago are undertaking an evaluation of the 2014 New Zealand family law reforms. As part of this research we want to survey family justice professionals about their experiences of, and satisfaction with, the reforms and current family justice services in New Zealand. We will also be asking parents and caregivers about their views and experiences of making parenting arrangements, and interviewing key stakeholders about their views. We want to find out what is working well and whether any improvements are needed in order to better help separated families.

What Type of Participants are being sought?

This study is for **all family justice professionals** who have experience of working in the family justice system in New Zealand since **1 April 2014**. This includes mediators, FDR providers, lawyers (including FLAS providers and Lawyer for Child), government, Ministry or Court staff, judges, psychologists, counsellors, social workers, Parenting through Separation providers, community law centre or Citizens Advice Bureau staff and anyone else providing advice, guidance or support for separated parents or caregivers making parenting arrangements.

What will Participants be Asked to Do?

Should you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete an **online survey** about your views on, and experiences of, the current New Zealand family justice system. This should take around 20 minutes to complete. You are able to skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

At the end of the survey you can indicate if you would also like to participate in an **individual interview** and, if so, the researchers will contact you directly by phone or email to arrange the interview. This will be conducted via telephone or face-to-face (depending on your location) and should take about 30 minutes.

We do not anticipate any risks associated with completing the survey or participating in an interview. Please be aware that you may decide not to take part in the study without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind.

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What Data or Information will be Collected and What Use will be Made of it?

The survey will collect information about your views on, and experiences of, the current family justice system for making post-separation care arrangements for children. We are interested in how the reforms have impacted on you and your clients and what you think is working well and what could be improved. You will also be asked to provide information about your professional background and some demographic data.

The survey will not ask you for any personal information that could identify you, unless you agree to take part in an interview and provide your contact details for this purpose. These details will be stored separately from your survey responses. Only members of the research team can access the data that will be stored on a secure server.

The interview will focus on similar topics to those covered in the survey, but will allow a more in-depth discussion of the issues. These interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed by either a member of the research team or a professional transcriber, who will each sign a confidentiality agreement. Participants will be assigned a unique identification number and no names or identifying details will be included on any audio-files or transcribed material.

The study findings will not identify individual participants and the responses from all those who complete the survey and take part in an interview will be combined and analysed as a group. Quotes from open-ended responses and interview transcripts may be used in reports in an unidentifiable way. The findings of the research will be written in a report that will be made publicly available and distributed to key stakeholders, family justice professionals and other interested parties. Articles will also be published in journals or presented at conferences. Every attempt will be made to preserve your anonymity. A summary of the study findings and the final report will be made available on the study website (passnz.co.nz) and participants may also contact the research team directly to obtain a copy.

The data collected will be securely stored in such a way that only the research team can access it. Data obtained as a result of the research will be retained for **at least 5 years** in secure storage. Any personal information held on the participants (such as contact details if provided) may be destroyed at the completion of the research even though the data derived from the research will, in most cases, be kept for much longer or possibly indefinitely.

Can Participants Change their Mind and Withdraw from the Study?

You may withdraw from participation in the study at any time before the data are analysed without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind.

What if Participants have any Questions?

If you have any questions about our study, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact the Project Manager:-

Dr Megan Gollop
Children's Issues Centre
University of Otago
Tel: (03) 479 4918; 0800-472 776
Email: megan.gollop@otago.ac.nz; passnz@otago.ac.nz

To contact a member of the research team:

Ring: 0800-4-PASSNZ [0800-472 776]
Email: passnz@otago.ac.nz

To complete the survey go to:
passnz.co.nz

Principal Investigators

Associate Professor Nicola Taylor, Dr Megan Gollop and Professor Mark Henaghan

This study has been approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee (Reference Number: 16/164). If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (ph +643 479 8256 or email gary.witte@otago.ac.nz). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.