

Guardianship rights and decisions caregivers can and cannot make



Guardianship Decisions

Guardians have the rights, powers and responsibilities to make major decisions about the upbringing of te tamaiti or rangatahi

- choice of name – including first and last name or family name and any changes to it
- registered sex and any changes to it
- education – where they attend, changing schools and after school education
- place of residence
- health care – consent to major medical, psychological, psychiatric or dental treatment including blood transfusions, vaccinations and sterilisation
- religion/spiritual beliefs – including choice of religion, education, and ceremonies
- cultural practices, language
- travel – overseas and passports



Areas of uncertainty

Consider early shared expectations conversations

- haircuts
- doctor's appointments – routine medical treatment
- recreational and social activities
- identity expression and choice of clothing
- celebrations of special occasions



Day-to-day care

Caregivers provide care on behalf of the chief executive and can make decisions that relate to day-to-day care

- physical care and protection (supervision)
- food
- clothing
- shelter
- day-to-day health care including dental care
- setting day-to-day boundaries and expectations
- visits with friends and other social activities

If there is a court order in place, for example, if te tamaiti or rangatahi is in the custody of Oranga Tamariki, then some guardianship decisions, such as where they live or attend school are the responsibility of the chief executive. Wherever possible we should make these decisions together with the parents or guardians.

When te tamaiti or rangatahi is in the custody of the chief executive, the chief executive is responsible for providing for their day-to-day care. The All About Me plan for te tamaiti or rangatahi will describe the way in which some of the day-to-day care responsibilities will be met. For example, how te tamaiti or rangatahi will maintain contact with their family or whānau. Te tamaiti or rangatahi, parents or guardians, and caregivers, along with significant others, all contribute to the development of the plan.