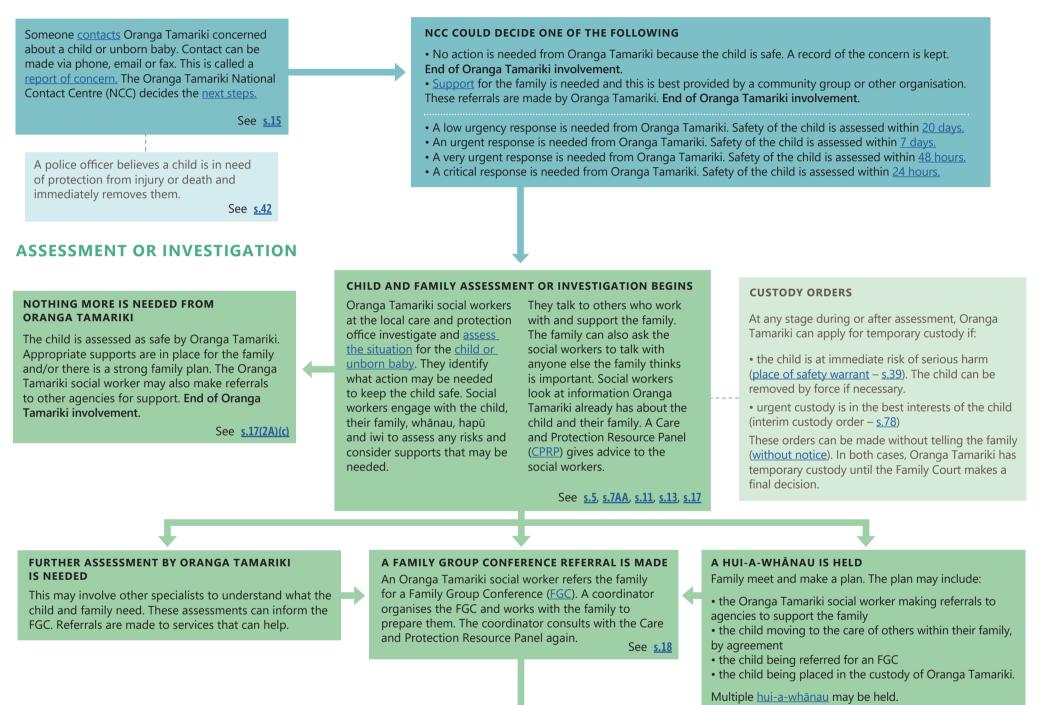
# **CARE AND PROTECTION** KEY DECISION MAKING POINTS



This brief process map for families, and those who support them, shows the Oranga Tamariki process when it is notified of care and protection worries for children. Every family's journey is unique. However, this map outlines what a family could experience.

It is important to note the Office of the Children's Commissioner has chosen to end this map at the point of the Family Group Conference (FGC) and its outcomes. Oranga Tamariki and the Family Court could continue to be involved in the lives of families after the FGC and arrangements for the care of the children could change.

## **CONCERNS REPORTED**



# SAFETY PLAN CREATED

## FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE HAPPENS

The aim is for a <u>legally binding plan</u> that ensures the safety of the child. This is reviewed within six months. The coordinator, the Oranga Tamariki social worker, the child's family, professionals and other people important to the child attend the FGC. If participants do not agree the child is in need of care and protection and/or agree on the plan, Oranga Tamariki make a decision about what happens next. See <u>s.18-38</u>

## FGC OUTCOMES

## **NO COURT ORDERS**

The FGC plan does not include any application for court orders. Part of the plan could include:

- the child remaining in the care of their parent(s)
- the child moving to the care of others within family by agreement
- the child no longer being in the custody of Oranga Tamariki
- the child's family seeking parenting orders through the Care of Children Act 2004.

### SUPPORT ORDER

The FGC plan includes an application for a <u>Support Order</u>.

If the Family Court makes the order, this allows Oranga Tamariki to provide support and services for the family. The child remains in the care of their family. See <u>s.91</u>

#### **CUSTODY AND/OR GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS**

The FGC plan includes an application for the child to be placed in the <u>custody and/or guardianship</u> of Oranga Tamariki.

If the Family Court makes a custody order, Oranga Tamariki must approve who will have the day-to-day care of the child.

#### This could be the child's:

- wider family
- hapū, iwi or family group, or
- non-family caregivers.

Children in custody have an <u>'All About Me'</u> plan to help meet their needs. See s.83, s.101, s.110

At any stage if a family is unwilling or unable to care for their child, the family may enter an <u>agreement for temporary</u> <u>care (s.139)</u> with Oranga Tamariki. This is a voluntary arrangement that enables Oranga Tamariki to provide care for the child. This agreement can be terminated at any time, either by the child's family or by Oranga Tamariki.

CORRECT AS AT JANUARY 2020