

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND

I TE KŌTI MANA NUI O AOTEAROA

SC UR 50/2025  
[2025] NZSC 181

RE

KYLE JAMES CRAIG  
Applicant

Counsel: Applicant in person

Judgment: 28 November 2025

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JUDGMENT OF WILLIAMS J

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**The application for review of the decision of the Registrar  
declining to waive the filing fee is dismissed.**

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REASONS

[1] The applicant, Mr Craig, seeks leave to appeal directly from the High Court against two decisions. The first was a decision by Grice J striking out a judicial review application effectively challenging final protection orders against Mr Craig in the Family Court.<sup>1</sup> The Judge described the application as “an attempt to revisit the Protection Orders in force against him following his exhausting all avenues of appeal against those orders”.<sup>2</sup> The second challenge relates to a decision by Gendall J declining Mr Craig’s application to review a decision of the Registrar in the High Court refusing to accept further proceedings for filing.<sup>3</sup> Gendall J found that the application was either identical or “incredibly similar” to claims previously rejected.<sup>4</sup>

[2] On 8 October 2025, the Registrar of this Court refused Mr Craig’s application for fee waiver in relation to his leapfrog application.

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<sup>1</sup> *Craig v Attorney-General* [2025] NZHC 2069.

<sup>2</sup> At [15].

<sup>3</sup> *Craig v Attorney-General* CIV-2025-485-458, 16 September 2025.

<sup>4</sup> At [5].

[3] Having reviewed the material filed by the applicant in support of his application for review of the Registrar's decision, I am satisfied that decision was appropriate in the circumstances.<sup>5</sup> The Registrar was plainly correct when she took the view that the application is wholly devoid of merit, is vexatious and would not be pursued by a reasonable, solvent litigant.<sup>6</sup>

[4] Further, although the applicant is plainly unhappy with the protection orders made in the Family Court, none of the matters raised by him suggest the leave criteria are met.<sup>7</sup> In any event, the heightened threshold for obtaining leave to appeal directly from the High Court cannot be met on the state of the pleadings.<sup>8</sup>

[5] The application for review of the decision of the Registrar declining to waive the filing fee is dismissed.

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<sup>5</sup> See Senior Courts Act 2016, s 160(4) and (5).

<sup>6</sup> *Duncan v The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc* [2024] NZCA 628 at [26].

<sup>7</sup> Senior Courts Act, s 74.

<sup>8</sup> Section 75.