

## Request from Corrective Services regarding child visits

You may receive a request from the Department of Justice - Corrective Services (Corrective Services) for a prisoner who has restricted visitation if that person wishes to have contact with children in their family. Prisoners are likely to have their visits restricted in circumstances where their offences are in relation to abuse of a child or an offence that included serious violence.

These assessments may be completed at Interaction if there is extensive information already on Assist, or at Initial Inquiry if more information is required to complete your assessment.



If in the process of your assessment or inquiry you learn about new concerns for a child, you **must** complete a separate interaction, complete the Interaction Tool and consider whether there is a further role for the Department.

As part of your assessment, you will be requested to make a recommendation to support or not to support the prisoner's application for the child visit. Corrective Services will make the final decision. Your assessment should consider the prisoners release date, the likely need to develop a safety plan for the child to visit their parent/relative in prison as well as on release, if no such safety plan exists and how well prepared the caregiver feels to ensure there is enough safety for the child to visit their parent/relative in prison.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, you should not recommend visits in the following situations:

- The non-offending parent/caregiver is unwilling or unable to create safety or to follow a safety plan.
- The non-offending parent/caregiver does not acknowledge or accept the offences for which the prisoner has been incarcerated.
- The child in question was harmed by the offences (even if this child was not the primary victim) and there is an unacceptable risk posed to the child the prisoner is requesting to visit.
- The child is considered a mature minor and is unable or unwilling to acknowledge the potential risks posed by the prisoner.
- The child is highly vulnerable, due to disability or other factors, and the risks are unlikely to be able to be managed safely.
- The prisoner has not taken responsibility for their offences, does not acknowledge the harm they have caused and/or demonstrates no insight into the risk they pose.
- The child has indicated they do not want to participate in a visit with the prisoner and/or the prison.

The request should include the identifying information of the prisoner, child victims and caregivers. It should also include relevant reports and sentencing remarks made by the magistrate in relation to their offence.

Complete the assessment and provide a response within six weeks, or sooner if the:

- prisoner is due for imminent release
- child is in the CEO's care, or
- there is relevant previous history available and current involvement with the family.

If you are unable to meet these timeframes, contact the Corrective Services on [AC-SM-ChildVisits@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au](mailto:AC-SM-ChildVisits@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au) to discuss the extension process. Any forms completed should be sent internally to [cpfs.dcsreferrals@cpfs.wa.gov.au](mailto:cpfs.dcsreferrals@cpfs.wa.gov.au) and a scanned copy should also be placed in the Objective file (child and prisoner).



In some circumstances the Department may receive a child visit request and a female prisoner is pregnant. If this occurs, you **must** complete a separate assessment in relation to the safety of the unborn child and consider progressing the Intake for pre-birth planning.

Refer to Chapters 2.2 High-risk infants and Pre-birth planning for further information.