

Changes for Child Visits Information for visitors

The Department of Corrections wants every child visiting a prison to be safe. This sheet explains some changes to the rules about children visiting prison.

Changes from September 2017

From 17 September 2017, anyone seeking approval to visit prison who is **under 18** will be processed as a child applicant.

The Corrections Regulations previously set the age of a child at under 16.

What this means for visitors

From 17 September, all *new* applications to visit prison will be considered as follows:

- people under the age of 18 will submit child application forms
- people aged 18 and over will submit adult application forms.

Visitors aged 16 and 17 who are currently approved adults

Some 16 and 17 year olds are already visiting prisons as approved adults. These people will no longer be considered adult visitors.

They now need to be in the company of an approved adult visitor, except in special circumstances determined by the Prison Director.

Visitors in this age group will be advised whether or not they can visit unaccompanied when they book a visit under the new rules.

Approving a child

The Prison Director decides whether the child is approved to visit or not.

Both the applicant and the prisoner will be notified of the decision.

If the child visitor is approved, they will need to show the approval letter to visits staff at the prison or Community Corrections site if the visit is by audio visual link (AVL).

Visits may have conditions imposed such as visiting in a booth or by AVL.

Rules for child visits

- All visitors **must** have approval before they can visit.
- Child visitors may be required to have guardian consent to visit prison unless the Prison Director decides this is not necessary.
- All child visitors need to be in the company of an approved adult visitor except in special circumstances, determined by the Prison Director
- If you are booking visits for anyone under 18, you must name each child at the time of booking and the adult coming with them.
- Approved adults who visit cannot bring any child under 18 with them unless the child has been approved.

Reviewing a prison visit decision

If you are not satisfied with a decision regarding a prison visit, including any conditions that are imposed, you can request that the decision be reviewed.

Prison staff will talk you through the process and help if you need them to.