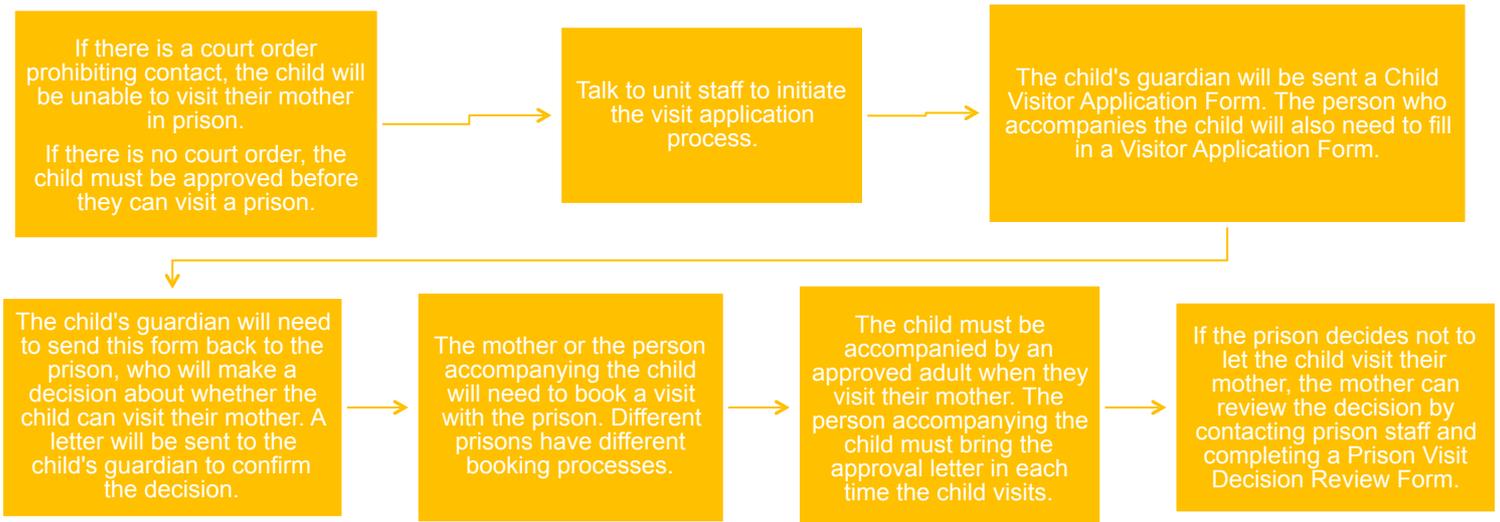


## Communicating with your child

### Prison visits

The below explains the process for arranging for a child to visit their parent in prison. Relevant forms from the Corrections Department can be found [here](#).



If a mother has been placed in a prison and her family is unable to visit due to distance, she may be able to request a transfer. She could also ask the other parent or guardian if they would consider moving to stay nearer to her.

Prisoners' Aid and Rehabilitation Society (PARS) and Salvation Army officers administer financial support to help children visit a parent in prison (called the Child Travel Fund). For more information contact [info@pars.co.nz](mailto:info@pars.co.nz) or 09 630 0862 (PARS).

### General communication

If there is a court order prohibiting contact, or a restraining order made against a mother, she is unable to communicate with her child(ren).

If there is no order prohibiting contact, the mother may write letters to her children. The prison must pay the postage of up to 3 standard letters per week. Letters may be read by prison staff before they are sent or received.

A mother may also phone her child(ren). She can purchase phone cards in prison, or family members may bring phone cards into prison for her. The mother must make a written application requesting that the phone number of her child(ren) be approved and entered into the Prisoner Telephone Call Control System.

Volunteers from Mothers Project may be able to contact a child's caregiver (the person looking after the child) to get an update about the child(ren), or to request that the caregiver arranges a visit.

### If a child is in Oranga Tamariki care

If the child(ren) are in Oranga Tamariki care, the mother should be provided with information about their situation and how they are progressing, regardless of whether she is allowed contact with her child.

Oranga Tamariki write a review every 6-12 months on children in their care, and a parent is entitled to a copy of the review.

As she remains the guardian of her child, the mother can make major decisions about their upbringing (sometimes, this will have to be in conjunction with a social worker).

A mother can call Oranga Tamariki for an update about her child on 0508 326 459. Volunteers from Mothers Project may be able to contact Oranga Tamariki or the child's caregiver to get an update about the child(ren), or to communicate your views on decisions being made about the child(ren).