



Prisoner Mothers/Primary Carers and their Children – Appendix B

Operative from 9 December 2005

**RECIPROCAL CHILD PROTECTION
PROCEDURES**

between

**Western Australia Police Service
Princess Margaret Hospital for Children
King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women
Disability Services Commission
Department of Education
Department of Education Services
(Office of Non-Government and International Education)
Department of Justice
Department of Health
State Coroner of Western Australia**

and

Department for Community Development

The Chief Executive Officers of the above government organisations have endorsed the Reciprocal Child Protection Procedures and require their staff to abide by both the spirit of the agreement and the procedures outlined. The original signed document is held on file by the Department for Community Development. This document is in two parts: an overarching agreement covering all organisations and specific procedures where special relationships are required.

FOREWORD

A key concern of the Department for Community Development and the broader community is the health, safety and well being of children and young people.

Effectively managing the protection of children is a major consideration for a number of government agencies and departments. An Interdepartmental Child Protection Co-ordination Committee is meeting to develop a framework for ensuring across agency co-ordination and collaboration to provide better outcomes for children who have been maltreated. Whilst this Framework is being developed, the Reciprocal Child Protection Procedures (updated 2002) are to be used as an interim document.

The Reciprocal Child Protection Procedures (updated 2002) strongly promote a collaborative approach with the community to ensure joint responsibility for the protection of children and families. The involvement of many agencies and stakeholders is necessary not only to ensure a wholistic child focused service, but also to regenerate community interest and collaborative participation. The Reciprocal Child Protection Procedures (Updated 2002) have been developed by the Department for Community Development in conjunction with key organisations which are co-signatories to the document.

Processes and procedures are not ends in themselves, but should always be used as a means of bringing about better outcomes for children. No guidelines can, or should, attempt to offer a detailed prescription for working with each child and family. This document sets out in practical terms guidelines for interagency collaboration, and calls for co-operation between agencies.

While these procedures provide a clear guide to government departments, they also offer an extremely useful framework for not-for-profit organisations that have a duty of care to children who may be in need of protection.

Jane Brazier
DIRECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

16 October 2002

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Specific procedures 6

The Department of Justice staff will advise the Department for Community Development where:

- a child visiting a prison has been maltreated or where there is a likelihood of such maltreatment occurring
- there is a likelihood that an offender with convictions of violence and/or sexual offences against a child will be in a situation where a child could be placed at risk
- the Department of Justice has contact with a child, either as a client or by way of some other relationship, who has been maltreated or is at risk of maltreatment.

1. Department of Justice Referrals to the Department for Community Development

Community Justice Services' staff are required to advise the Department for Community Development regarding an offender or any other individual where there is suspected child abuse and/or:

- there is an allegation by a child that s/he has been assaulted or harmed currently or in the past and parents/carers have failed to protect the child and/or
- there is a belief that a child has suffered significant harm or there is a risk of significant harm and parents/carers have failed to protect the child and/or
- there are concerns for a child's welfare that are related to the adequacy of his/her home environment or the standard of parenting she/he receives and the precise nature of the issue or problem requires further assessment.

2. Referral Process to the Department for Community Development

Referrals are to be made to the Department for Community Development through the appropriate departmental office (usually based on the parent/carer's address) during working hours or through the Crisis Care Unit after hours. Referral may be made by telephone in the first instance and must be followed in writing.

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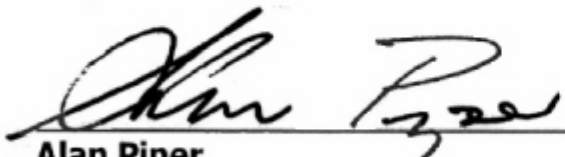
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Endorsed by:



Jane Brazier
DIRECTOR GENERAL
Department for **Community Development**

date: 17th Oct. 2002



Alan Piper
DIRECTOR GENERAL
Department of **Justice**

date: 12/11 2002

The above Chief Executive Officers have endorsed the Reciprocal Child Protection Procedures and require their staff to abide by both the spirit of the agreement and the procedures outlined within.

This document is in two parts: first, an overarching agreement covering all agencies and second, specific procedures where special relationships are required.