



Policy Directive 10

Prisoner Mothers/Primary Carers and their Children

Legislation referred to: [Prisons Act 1981](#)
 [Prisons Regulations 1982](#)

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Purpose

To provide authority for the implementation and operation of the child residence, extended day and overnight stay programs enabling primary care givers to maintain or establish bonds and relationships with their children.

Definitions

Care Plan	refers to the document that identifies any areas of concern regarding the safety of the child within the prison setting and in relation to the Child Residence Program, any issues arising in relation to the child's access to the community.
Maltreatment	refers to the provision of sufficient information to indicate that a child: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• may have been or has been physically or emotionally harmed or injured• may be at risk of significant physical or emotional harm or injury• may have been exposed or subjected to sexual behaviour or activities which are exploitative or inappropriate to his/her development level, or• may be the subject of persistent actions which have or are likely to result in the child's development being significantly impaired.
Primary Carer	is defined as an individual who is the main person responsible for the custody or care of a child or children.
Mother	refers to a biological mother or primary carer.
Superintendent	means the Designated Superintendent for that facility.

Policy

1. Child Residence Program (Day and overnight stays)

- 1.1 Women prisoners are able to care for their young babies or children in prison where it is considered to be in the best interests of the child and the management and security of the prison is not threatened.
- 1.2 This Directive provides the authority for the implementation and operation of the child residence, extended day and overnight stay programs. The Superintendent has a responsibility to ensure the good order and security of the prison is maintained and therefore, must give priority to this over any application.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of these programs is the maintenance or establishment of the bonds and relationships between mothers and their children.
- 2.2 This Directive identifies the circumstances and conditions by which a Superintendent may, subject to a prisoner meeting certain conditions, permit a prisoner to have her child with her in prison.

3. Principles

The following guiding principles for allowing residency will also apply:

- 3.1 In relation to children residing in the prison, the best interests of the child are paramount. This takes into consideration the child's best alternative long term living arrangement, regardless of the mother's wishes and capacity to care for the child.
- 3.2 Where practicable, facilities and services should be of a best practice and/or community standard.
- 3.3 Where practicable, environments should be 'normalised', stimulating and allow for interaction with other children.
- 3.4 Child residency should not be used as a part of the hierarchy of privileges and sanctions within the prison to manage the behaviour of the mother. However, continued misconduct of the mother may indicate a need to re-assess the placement of the child.
- 3.5 Processes and procedures should be implemented in a timely manner.
- 3.6 Should it be necessary for the child to leave the prison to be placed in the care of another carer, this should happen in a manner that is planned and considerate of the impact on the child.

4. Duty of Care

- 4.1 While a prisoner is permitted to have her child reside with her, she is expected to assume full responsibility for the child's care and safety while residing in prison. However, the Department of Corrective Services continues to owe a duty of care to that child. This means that the Department of Corrective Services will take all reasonable steps to minimise all foreseeable risks of harm that might occur to a child residing in a prison or visiting a prison. (See [Appendix A](#))
- 4.2 It is acknowledged that the standard of care required of the department will be high.
- 4.3 In order for this standard of care to be upheld, the prison will:
 - 4.3.1 In Standing Orders, provide a contract to be signed by the mother of the child. This contract will clearly establish the responsibilities of the prison and the mother with regard to the safety and wellbeing of her children in the prison environment.
 - 4.3.2 Provide mothers with information on responsible and safe child-rearing practices.
 - 4.3.3 Formally establish and implement procedures within the prison to promote the safety and wellbeing of child(ren) in prison, including a register of foreseeable risks and how they will be managed.
 - 4.3.4 Follow the identified assessment process (refer to [Procedure section 6 - Applications](#)) for applications by prisoners to have their children reside in prison.
 - 4.3.5 Adhere to the Memorandum of Understanding developed between the Department of Corrective Services and the Department for Community Development (DCD) (See [Appendix B](#))
 - 4.3.6 Ensure there are Care Plans for all children residing in, or on overnight stays within the prison.

- 4.3.7 Ensure there are records of all assessments, Care Plans, case reviews, incidents and decisions in relation to children resident in prison (long term or on overnight stay).

Procedure

1. Eligibility for residential, overnight/extended day visits by children of prisoners

- 1.1 In addition to those visits permitted in Director General's Rule 7, the following visits may be permitted for female prisoners where appropriate facilities exist.

2. Facilities

- 2.1 For residential stays the prison should as far as practicable be similar to normalised housing in the community.
- 2.2 For overnight stays, prisons must provide a facility suitable for the accommodation of older children that has restricted access by other prisoners. Children on approved day/overnight stays are not permitted outside the designated area. These facilities should, as far as practicable, be similar to normalised housing in the community.
- 2.3 For extended days stays the prisons may use existing visits facilities for overnight stays.
- 2.4 Superintendents are, with the agreement of the Director Women's Custodial and Prison Farms, to nominate an area for mothers and children in their prison that will provide for their safety and wellbeing.

3. Ages

3.1 Residential Programs

- 3.1.1 The age limit at which a child's residency ceases will generally be when the child turns twelve (12) months of age.
- 3.1.2 In purpose-built minimum security facilities, the age limit at which a child's residency ceases will generally be when the child turns four (4) years of age.

3.2 Extended Day Stay

- 3.2.1 In a secure prison the age limit at which a child may be permitted to make regular extended day stays with their primary carer will be up to twelve (12) years of age.
- 3.2.2 In a minimum security environment the age limit at which a child may be permitted to make regular extended day stays with their primary carer will be up to twelve (12) years of age.

3.3 Overnight Stays

- 3.3.1 In a secure prison the age limit at which a child may be permitted to make regular overnight stays with their primary carer will be up to six (6) years of age.
- 3.3.2 In a minimum security environment the age limit at which a child may be permitted to make regular overnight stays with their primary carer will be up to twelve (12) years of age.

4. Relationship of Child to Carer

- 4.1 Where it has been established that a significant primary caring relationship exists, prisoners may apply to the Superintendent to have the child for whom they have been caring stay with them for overnight stays or extended day visits. This flexibility is required to accommodate cultural issues in relation to child rearing.

5. Eligibility

- 5.1 Both sentenced and remand prisoners may apply for extended day or overnight visits or to have a child in residence at the prison. Each Superintendent shall develop Standing Orders for processing applications for overnight and extended day stay visits, in line with [procedure 6](#). Mothers should submit their application form to the Superintendent.
- 5.2 In exceptional circumstances where there is an identified need, such as a child coping with a particular grief or loss, the Superintendent may allow older children to stay. Each case will be assessed individually. The safety of other children and the appropriateness of the child's gender in that setting will be of consideration.

6. Applications

6.1 Superintendent may refuse Application

- 6.1.1 On receipt of an application the designated Superintendent may decide not to proceed with the application if:

6.1.1.1 Psychiatric reports indicate the applicant suffers from mental illness and is unable to care for the child.

6.1.1.2 The applicant is actively engaged in self harm or displays suicidal behaviour.

6.1.1.3 The applicant is displaying violent behaviour in the prison environment.

6.1.1.4 The applicant is regularly/routinely testing positive to non-issued substances.

6.1.1.5 The maintenance of the custody of the prisoner may be put at risk.

6.1.1.6 It is considered the security of the prison may be threatened.

6.1.1.7 The Superintendent believes he/she is unable to segregate the child from prisoners who present a threat to their safety, or

6.1.1.8 The demands of the prison population count do not allow the capacity to set aside a particular space for the child residence program.

6.1.1.9 The Superintendent is unable to provide a facility that is suitable.

- 6.1.2 If the Superintendent decides not to proceed with the application the prisoner is to be advised of this and the reasons for the decision.

- 6.1.3 This decision is to be recorded in the minutes of the next Child Care Management Committee meeting and a decision slip recorded on Total Offender Management System (TOMS).

- 6.1.4 On receipt of an application and the above circumstances do not apply, the Superintendent will assign an officer the task of preparing the AIPR Application for

Residential Child, Extended Day or Overnight Visit Assessment Checklist for consideration at the Child Care Management Committee.

- 6.1.5 Prior to the officer commencing the assessment the prisoner will be required to sign a DCD Consent for Release of Information form (See [Appendix C](#)) and a Carers Permission form (See [Appendix D](#)).

6.2 Background Information to be collated

- 6.2.1 For applications, the Superintendent must list the application for consideration by the Child Care Management Committee. The Superintendent will require reports addressing the following:

- 6.2.1.1 Mother's criminal record.
- 6.2.1.2 Mother's social history.
- 6.2.1.3 If relevant, a report as to her psychiatric or intellectual functioning.
- 6.2.1.4 An assessment from the DCD Senior Family Links Officer. This will consider any past contact the DCD may have had with the mother, and will assess the mother's capacity to care for her child in the prison setting. The assessment will make a recommendation based on the best interests of the child.
- 6.2.1.5 If applicable, a report from Prison Counselling Services, or the Prison Based Community Corrections Officer (PBCCO).
- 6.2.1.6 Reports from any local service providers involved with the mother, such as Good Beginnings.
- 6.2.1.7 Any family court orders relating to custody and access of non-custodial parent.
- 6.2.1.8 Whether any Violence Restraining Orders or Misconduct Restraining Orders exist, and the nature of that order.
- 6.2.1.9 Any medical issues for the mother or child eg serious illness of mother that impacts on her capacity to care for the child, or illness of child that requires specialist care that could not properly be managed within the prison setting.
- 6.2.1.10 Availability of appropriate prison accommodation and facilities at an acceptable community standard.
- 6.2.1.11 The availability of approved alternate carers in the community (all alternate carers must be assessed).
- 6.2.1.12 Other prisoners with whom the child may have contact and the safety of the child in that environment.
- 6.2.1.13 Risks posed to the child's emotional and intellectual development from being in the prison environment.
- 6.2.1.14 Whether the mother's length of sentence significantly exceeds the time the child can remain in the prison with her and if so, whether the resulting separation is assessed as not to be in the child's best interests.
- 6.2.1.15 Prior maternal contact (ie whether the applicant has been the primary carer).
- 6.2.1.16 Appropriate immunisation as determined by Health Services staff.

6.3 Child Care Management Committee Membership

- 6.3.1 Where practicable this committee is to consist of the Superintendent (or his/her delegate), Unit Management Team staff, Health Services staff, Prison Counselling Service, DCD and Parental Development Programs Staff.
- 6.3.2 The Superintendent may request other representatives be part of the Child Care Management Committee should it be deemed appropriate.
- 6.3.3 The chairperson shall be a Superintendent or the Superintendent's delegate, and the Child Care Management Committee will make recommendations to the Superintendent.

6.4 Decision

- 6.4.1 After discussing all relevant reports the Child Care Management Committee must make a recommendation to the Superintendent, who will make the decision as to whether the placement of the child with the mother in the prison is in the best interests of the child. This decision is to be recorded in the minutes of the Child Care Management Committee meeting and a decision slip recorded on TOMS.

6.5 Appeal Process

- 6.5.1 If an application for residency is denied by the Superintendent, the mother must be informed and given a reason why she cannot have her child stay with her in the prison. The prisoner has the right to appeal to the Director, Women's Custodial Services. The appeal must be in writing using the 'Appeal Against Decision'(C 232) Form and lodged with the Superintendent within 14 days of being notified of the decision. The Superintendent will forward this to the Director, Women's Custodial Services.

7. Care Plans

- 7.1 Once a prisoner has been approved to have a child reside in prison or have overnight visits a Care Plan is to be formulated by the Child Care Management Committee prior to the child entering the prison. The Care Plan is available on the AIPR system on TOMS.
- 7.2 Care Plans for all children participating in the Overnight Stay Program will consider:
 - 7.2.1 any restrictions on contact with other prisoners
 - 7.2.2 any areas within the prison where the child may not go
 - 7.2.3 any special needs of the child eg health issues
 - 7.2.4 frequency and duration of visits. Visits by school age children during school time will only be approved in exceptional circumstances.
- 7.3 Care Plan for resident children should address as a minimum:
 - 7.3.1 mothers should participate in any programs or counselling to develop her parenting skills
 - 7.3.2 any restrictions on movement of the mother within the prison
 - 7.3.3 list any alternate carers (within the prison and external) who must have been assessed by the DCD, Senior Family Links Officer

- 7.3.4 a schedule of visits to any non-custodial parent in the community
- 7.3.5 any childcare arrangements required for the mother to attend education/vocational or programmatic activities
- 7.3.6 in mixed gender prisons, if there is a male prisoner with a significant familial or cultural relationship with the child, he must also be assessed to determine if he is acceptable to have contact with the child. Depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary to develop a regime of supervised visits
- 7.3.7 the level of contact with DCD
- 7.3.8 the view of DCD as to the long term placement of the child and any transitional arrangements needed to that end eg access and overnight stays with proposed alternate carers in the community
- 7.3.9 any health issues requiring treatment outside the prison.

8. Progress/Review Meetings

- 8.1 Care Plans must be regularly reviewed at a rate determined by the Child Care Management Committee. At least once per month, the Superintendent should review the resident child's file where staff should note any concerns or observations about the mother and the child. If there are any indications of concern the Superintendent should call a progress meeting of the Child Care Management Committee.

9. Release Plans

- 9.1 The Child Care Management Committee should establish a release plan. This should be prepared no later than one month prior to the expected release of the mother. The Release Plan must address at least:
 - 9.1.1 If the child is to reside with the mother on release (on advice from DCD).
 - 9.1.2 Accommodation for mother and child - separately or jointly depending on the circumstance.
 - 9.1.3 If the mother and child are to be separated, the child should have a program of overnight and extended day visits to the proposed carer in the community.
 - 9.1.4 Income support for mother.
 - 9.1.5 Employment/vocational, counselling.
 - 9.1.6 Child care options eg day care.
 - 9.1.7 Mother is linked to the Child Health nurse in the area that she will reside.

10. Separation of mother and child resident attaining maximum eligibility age for participation

10.1 Where the mother's sentence extends beyond her child attaining twelve (12) months of age or four (4) years (in the case of a purpose-built minimum security facility), the Superintendent shall (as part of the Care Plan) determine a process for the gradual separation of the child and placement in the community.

11. Urgent admissions of baby to prison

11.1 Circumstances where it is necessary to make an urgent decision for a baby to remain with its mother such as admittance of a mother and baby from court, the Superintendent or their delegate shall, subject to the provisions of [Section 2](#), take the following into consideration:

- 11.1.1 whether the child is breastfed and if the child has intolerance to formula milk
- 11.1.2 the ability to isolate the baby until medical clearance has been provided by a community health professional and Health Services staff
- 11.1.3 feedback about prior contact with the DCD, in order to access information pertaining to the safety of the baby in the mothers care
- 11.1.4 whether there are any other interim carers available in the community until the Child Care Management Committee can consider the case
- 11.1.5 any other interim risks.

11.2 As soon as practicable, the Superintendent will review such provisional approval, followed by a Child Care Management Committee Meeting. It is anticipated this will usually only apply to babies, however, the Superintendent has some discretion to accept other children if the circumstances necessitate.

12. Admittance of the child to reside with the mother

12.1 Prisoners to Accept Conditions

- 12.1.1 Prisoners who are permitted to have their children reside in the prison will be required to sign a contract acknowledging the conditions applying to the approval. Superintendents are to provide contracts for this purpose in Standing Orders.
- 12.1.2 These conditions may include (but are not limited to): presentation of the child to the local community child health nurse; mother's attendance at programs; engagement with support services as directed by the designated Superintendent and; co-operation with any DCD caseworkers.

13. Health Checks on admission

- 13.1 Health Services staff will examine the child following a successful application by a prisoner to have a child reside in the prison with her, at the time of the admittance of the child. Where practicable if the child will have exposure to others within the site, this will also apply to children entering the prison for day and overnight stays or when returning from staying with a carer in the community. In case of serious concerns regarding the child's well-being/health the alternative carer will be required to take the child into their care in the community.
- 13.2 Regardless of any previous decision a Superintendent has the right to refuse the child to enter the prison at this time.

14. Unavailability of external carer

- 14.1 If the Superintendent is unable to contact an approved alternate carer and the child must leave the prison for any reason, the Superintendent will consult with the DCD to arrange the child's removal from the prison.

15. Applications for child to temporarily leave the prison

- 15.1 A prisoner may choose to have their child temporarily leave the prison. The child must be placed with an approved alternate carer.

16. Health of the child

- 16.1 At no time should the child's access to medical care be delayed. Health Services staff will be the first point of referral for all health problems concerning the child. Health Services staff may refer the child to a Department of Corrective Services or community medical officer if required. The medical officer may exert medical supervisory responsibility, but will only be involved in specific care for a child if called upon by the Health Services staff.
- 16.2 The local Community Child Health Nurse will be notified by Health Services staff when a child becomes a resident in the prison. Arrangements must be developed to ensure the child health nurse regularly sees the child. The frequency of this is to be determined by the child health nurse.
- 16.3 If a child requires medical attention when there are no Health Services staff on duty, the officer-in-charge is to contact the prison medical officer or their approved delegate for advice. Only medical officers nominated by the prison are to attend the prison.
- 16.4 Where a child resident with the mother in prison requires to leave the prison for the purpose of medical or other health treatment, the superintendent may grant an Absence Permit for the mother to leave the prison to attend the appointment with the child.
- 16.5 If the child is not well, or in the event of the child having a contagious disease whilst in prison, the child may or must (depending on the health issue) leave the prison with an alternate carer and receive the medical attention needed. This is necessary to manage the risk of the disease spreading to other children in the prison. Health Services staff must be advised and will assist in developing a strategy to limit the spread of the disease within the prison.

16.6 Where practicable, depending on the security risks involved, the child's mother is to accompany her child to the hospital under escort. The hospital would need to make a medical appointment for the mother to be able to accompany the child under s 27 (1) *Prisons Act 1981*.

17. Medical Emergencies

17.1 In an emergency the child is to be sent to the nearest emergency care Hospital by ambulance.

17.2 Where a child is hospitalised and it is considered the mother cannot attend the hospital to be with the child, the alternate carer should be contacted and advised so they may provide comfort and support to the hospitalised child. However, where possible, the mother should be allowed as much contact with the child as practicable.

17.3 In principal Mothers are expected to meet medical costs including ambulance costs.

18. Smoking

18.1 Areas identified as accommodating children shall be smoke free inside the buildings and immediately outside the main entrances.

18.2 Children's activities shall be smoke free.

18.3 Mothers are not to smoke in their cells/rooms with their child.

18.4 Each site will develop Local Orders to manage this issue.

19. Meals

19.1 Where practicable a mother is responsible for preparing meals for herself and the child in their own kitchen. However, the mother may obtain meals through the normal prison routine if the child has been granted temporary leave from the prison.

19.2 The prison is responsible for providing food suitable for children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

19.3 Health Services staff in conjunction with the prison will exercise an educational role as to the provision of a nutritious diet for children cared for within the prison. This should be in conjunction with the Community Child Health Nurse.

20. Reporting of Concerns for Wellbeing of Children

20.1 In the normal course of their duty, staff will naturally observe the child resident in the prisons. Should staff have any concerns regarding the well-being of any child they are to report and document their concerns to the Superintendent immediately. These concerns may range from an observation that the child is unwell, to inappropriate parenting practices that are potentially damaging to the child.

20.2 Specific complaints of physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children in prison

- 20.2.1 All staff must report immediately to the Superintendent any knowledge or incidence of alleged physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse of a child. The Superintendent shall advise the Director, Women's Custodial Services immediately.
- 20.2.2 The Superintendent should also immediately report any such concerns to the Senior Family Links Officer based at Boronia Pre-Release Centre for Women.
- 20.2.3 The officer in charge must:
 - 20.2.3.1 complete an incident report on the TOMS system
 - 20.2.3.2 contact the alternative carer to assist with the removal of the child from the prison if required
 - 20.2.3.3 forward all reports to a specially convened meeting of the Child Care Management Committee.

21. Working with mothers with children

- 21.1 The Superintendent shall use his/her best endeavours to ensure that the interactions between staff and working mothers/primary carers with children, are appropriate and informed. The Superintendent shall ensure that:
 - 21.1.1 appropriate operational processes are in place
 - 21.1.2 awareness is raised in relation to issues concerning mothers and their children
 - 21.1.3 indicators of child abuse are known to all staff.
 - 21.1.4 Mothers will follow normal prison routine as far as it is possible to do so. In the first six weeks after birth, the mother /primary carer may be exempt from following the daily routine.
- 21.2 Mothers will be responsible for organising their early morning routine to meet the individual demands of their children. They must however, be dressed and prepared for daytime activity in accordance with the normal prison routine timetable.

22. Disciplinary charges

- 22.1 A prisoner who is involved in committing a prison offence will be subject to normal disciplinary charges. Should the offence impact on the safety or wellbeing of the child, the Superintendent will determine the appropriateness of the child remaining in the care of the mother. At no point should the child be taken away from the mother as a form of punishment.

23. The Safety and Health of children in the workplace

- 23.1 This refers to the occasions where prisoners are undertaking paid work within the prison and have their children in their care while they are working.

23.2 In the prison environment, it is the Superintendent's responsibility to make sure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that any working areas are safe. However, it is the mother's responsibility to ensure the safety of the child.

24. Compliance with 'Kidsafe' and 'Safebaby' Standards

24.1 In accordance with Kidsafe recommendations, all accommodation where children reside will have to be reviewed to make sure that the accommodation is fit for a child to live in. Where practicable, the Superintendent should strive to comply with Australian Kidsafe Standards and Safebaby Codes to provide a safe environment.

25. Gratuities/Money

25.1 Mothers, unless they are undertaking additional work, training or education, will be paid at the minimum gratuity (Level 5), unless determined otherwise by the Superintendent.

25.2 Prisoners with resident children are entitled to receive fortnightly the Family Tax Benefit. Funds from the family benefit are to be held in a separate account from a prisoner's private cash account and are only to be spent on matters relating to the child+.

25.3 The prison will supply cloth nappies, bedding, a pram, a high chair, a cot for babies and normal bedding for older children participating in overnight stays or residing in purpose built prisons.

25.4 The usual prison facilities and processes should be used for external purchases.

26. Management of children's property

26.1 Prisons do not need to maintain a written list of all the child's clothing or consumable items as they come and go from the prison environment, as they do for prisoners. The prison accepts no responsibility for the loss or theft of items of the children's property.

26.2 Children's property may be checked for contraband on exit and entry to the prison.

27. Record keeping

27.1 All records relating to the assessment, decision-making and ongoing management of a child are to be kept in a separate file within the mothers prison management file. One file for all children will be created under the mother's name. The child will be allocated his/her own identification number as listed on the TOMS visitor register.

27.2 The file should include the following:

27.2.1 a copy of the application

27.2.2 the Child Care Management Committee's decision

27.2.3 health and medical information

27.2.4 information outlining previous contact with the DCD

27.2.5 information outlining previous contact with any other agencies

27.2.6 any incidents in which the child may have been involved, including any prison incident reports on the TOMS system.

27.3 When the mother is discharged from prison this separate file is to be sent to Offender Records Management for filing.

28. Transport of babies/children In departmental vehicles

28.1 Please refer to [Policy Directive 44](#) s 7.2 for information regarding the transportation procedures of babies.

29. Death of a baby whilst In prison

29.1 The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that any death of a prisoner's baby, while the baby is living in prison, is lawfully confirmed, and that activities are carried out within the law and with respect for the spiritual, ritual, religious and cultural beliefs of the baby's mother.

29.2 The following steps should be followed in the event of the death of a baby who has been residing in a prison:

29.2.1 Staff are to make every effort to maintain life prior to confirmation by a certified medical practitioner that the baby is dead.

29.2.2 The superintendent (OIC) must immediately call for an ambulance.

29.2.3 At the time the incident comes to the attention of a prison staff member, the Director Health Services (or after hours, the on-call nurse) must be notified, as should the Designated Superintendent and Director Women's Custodial Services.

29.2.4 The Superintendent must ensure that immediately following the confirmed death the incident area is secured to ensure the preservation of the scene and prevent interference with any material. The Police Prisons Team, Major Crime Squad must be contacted. The baby's mother and one support person may remain with the deceased baby under custodial supervision.

29.2.5 The mother should immediately be assessed under the At Risk Management System.

29.2.6 The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring adequate emotional, cultural and/or religious support is given to the mother. The mother should also be given access to a telephone to inform her family of the death. This includes the potential for the approved family members to visit the prison and spend time with the mother and baby.

29.2.7 .The Superintendent is responsible for offering the mother the opportunity for any cultural or religious support. If requested the superintendent will arrange for appropriate cultural and/or religious rites to be carried out in consultation with the baby's mother and her family, prison chaplain and cultural adviser. This includes the potential for the family to participate in a blessing of the deceased's unit with the other prisoners and staff.

29.2.8 .If the prisoner mother does not request any religious or cultural support the Superintendent may, at the request of staff or other prisoners, with the mother's consent, arrange religious and/or cultural rites (for example, a blessing of the unit/facility) once the baby's body has been removed from the Prison.

29.3 An Incident Report must be completed under the mother's TOMS file number. The log is to list pertinent times and occurrences from the time that staff first came upon the incident scene to when the baby's body is removed from the incident scene.

29.4 The baby' body can only be removed after a member of the Police Prisons Team has authorised the removal. This should be done with due consideration for the mother who may want to spend some further time with her baby before the body is taken away.

29.5 The Superintendent must also ensure that all staff involved in the incident are offered support from PRIME team or another person with appropriate training.

Applicability

Applies to all prisons and all officers.

References

- [Prisons Act 1981](#)
- [Prisons Regulations 1982](#)
- [Standard Guidelines for Corrections in Australia 2004](#)
- [Appendix A](#) Risk Register
- [Appendix B](#) Reciprocal Agreement
- [Appendix C](#) Consent for Release of Information
- [Appendix D](#) Carers Permission Form

Approved

Commissioner:

Ian Johnson

Signature:



Date:

4 April 2007

Policy Sponsor

General Manager Prison Operations.

Contact Person

The following person may be approached on a routine basis in relation to this policy:

Principal Operational Policy Officer

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