



Care of children: Making parenting arrangements



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What you will find in here

Page number:



What this Easy Read is about.....2



What is a parenting arrangement?6

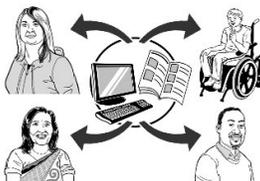


Working out a parenting arrangement..... 10



Getting legal advice 16

More places where you can get support 17



Where to find more information.....28

What this Easy Read is about



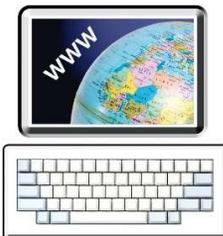
This Easy Read document has been written by the Ministry of Justice.



This Easy Read document has information about working out **parenting arrangements**.



There is more information about what **parenting arrangements** means on **pages 6 to 9**.



You can find more Easy Read information about the care of children and the Family Court on this **website**:

www.justice.govt.nz/care-of-children/resources



This is a long Easy Read document.

Some things you can do to make reading it easier are:



- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.



While this document has been written in Easy Read there is still a lot of complex information.



It is a good idea to get further advice.



If you or someone you know does not feel safe right now you can:

- phone the police on **111**
- contact **Are You OK** on:

phone: 0800 456 450

website: www.areyouok.org.nz



family violence

it's not ok

Are You OK is an information service that can help you if you:

- are being hurt by someone
- see someone being hurt
- want to stop hurting someone.



You can also find more information on the Ministry of Justice **website:**

www.justice.govt.nz/family-violence

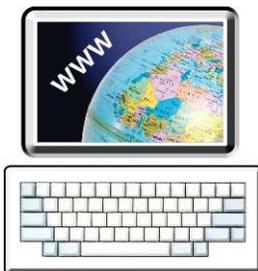


There are lots of phone numbers in this Easy Read document.



If you find it hard to use the phone the **New Zealand Relay** service is for people who are:

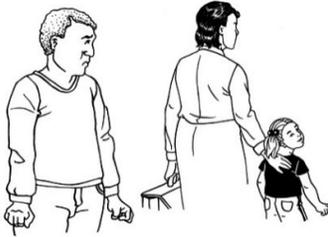
- Deaf / hard of hearing
- deafblind
- speech impaired / find it hard to talk.



You can find out more about the New Zealand Relay service at:

www.nzrelay.co.nz

What is a parenting arrangement?

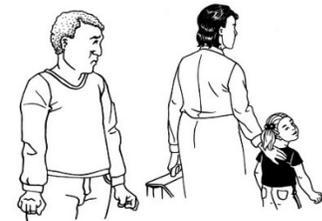


Sometimes families have to change their family situation.



A change in family situation could mean:

- people decide to no longer live together
- it is best for the child / children to live with someone that is not their parents
- a disagreement about how to raise the child / children.





Going through a change in family situation can be hard for:

- parents
- **guardians**
- children
- whānau / family
- friends.



A **guardian** is an adult who is responsible for caring for a child / children.

It can be hard to work out how everyone can keep being a part of the life of a child.



It can help if everyone comes to an agreement about the best ways to keep being a part of the life of a child.



Parents / guardians / whānau need to agree about:

- who their child / children will live with
- how this time will be shared between the parents / guardians / whānau
- how important decisions about their child / children will be made.



Working these things out is called making a **parenting arrangement**.



Parenting arrangement is another way of saying a parenting plan or a private parenting agreement.



If everyone can come to an agreement it can save a lot of:

- time
- money
- stress.

Working out a parenting arrangement

1. Parenting Plan Workbook

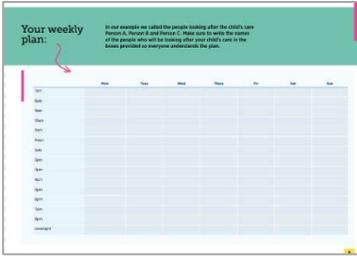


The Parenting Plan Workbook can be used by the people who are part of the day to day care of the child / children.

The workbook can be used to help people work out:

- how the child / children will be looked after
- what decisions need to be made.





It has pages where you can write out the best plan for the child.



You can find this workbook on the Ministry of Justice **website**:

www.justice.govt.nz/parenting-plan-workbook



To have a copy of the workbook posted to you **phone** the Ministry of Justice on:

0800 224 733

2. Parenting Through Separation course



The Parenting Through Separation course is a free course for parents / guardians who are separating.

It is sometimes called **PTS** for short.



PTS courses do not cost money to do.

Some of the things you will learn on the PTS course are:



- how sharing childcare will work for your whānau / family
- ways to support the child / children with the changes to whānau / family life.



The PTS course will also teach you:

- how to write a parenting plan
- where to get support.



The PTS course is mostly held in small groups.

You do not have to go to the same course as your ex-partner / anyone else involved in the change in family situation.



You can find out more information about the PTS course on the Ministry of Justice **website**:

**[www.justice.govt.nz/
parenting-through-separation](http://www.justice.govt.nz/parenting-through-separation)**



You can also phone the Ministry of Justice on **0800 224 733**



3. Family Dispute Resolution mediation service

Family Dispute Resolution is a service where an **independent mediator** will assist the parents / guardians / whānau to:



- talk about the things they cannot agree on
- come to an agreement if they can.



It is sometimes called FDR for short.

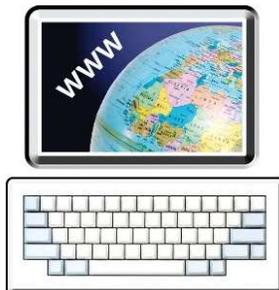


An FDR **independent mediator** is someone who:

- listens to parents / guardians / whānau
- does not take sides
- works through possible ways of caring for the child / children that everyone agrees with.



You may have to pay some money towards the cost of using FDR.



You can find more information about FDR / the cost of FDR on the Ministry of Justice **website**:

www.justice.govt.nz/family-dispute-resolution

Getting legal advice



Legal advice is when you ask a lawyer for information about the law. If you are going through a change in family situation it may be helpful to get some legal advice.

You can get legal advice at any time.

If you are not sure where to start you can visit your Community Law Centre.

You can use this **website** to find out where your closest Community Law Centre is:

www.communitylaw.org.nz

More places where you can get support



1. Family Court

The Family Court has **staff** that can assist people with the forms needed and next steps.



Staff are people who work at the Family Court.



Staff include:

- Kaiārahi / Family Court Navigators
- Family Court Co-ordinators
- Front counter staff.





Staff at the Family Court **cannot** give you legal advice.

You can talk to Court staff by:

- visiting the Family Court closest to you
- emailing:

kaiarahi@justice.govt.nz

- calling the Ministry of Justice on:

0800 224 733



2. Citizens Advice Bureau

Citizens Advice Bureau is also sometimes called **CAB**.



CAB can assist you to:

- understand your rights
- fill out forms.



To find out more information about CAB you can:

- go to this website:

www.cab.org.nz

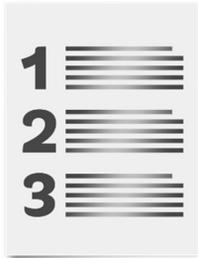
- call this phone number:

0800 367 222



3. Family Services Directory

The Family Services Directory:

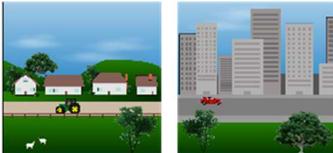


- has a list of support services that can assist whānau / family across Aotearoa New Zealand

- is an information service about all kinds of services such as:



- counselling
- housing / somewhere to live
- help with the cost of living such as food



- disability support
- transport.





To find out more information about Family Services Directory you can:

- visit their website:

www.familyservices.govt.nz



- call this phone number:

0800 211 211



4. CCS Disability Action

CCS Disability Action provides information and support to:



- disabled people
- their whānau / family.

To find out more information about CCS Disability Action you can:



- visit this website:

www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz

- email:

info@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz



- phone:

0800 227 200



5. 1737: Need to Talk

At 1737: Need to Talk you can talk to a counsellor by:



- calling: **1737**
- texting: **1737**



1737: Need to Talk is open all day / night.



If the 1737 number does not work from your phone you can call this number:

0800 1737 1737



You can find out more about 1737: Need to Talk on this **website**:

www.1737.org.nz



6. Lifeline Aotearoa

At Lifeline you can talk to a trained counsellor by:



- calling: **0800 543 354**
- texting: **4357**



Lifeline is open all day / night.



You can find more information about Lifeline on their website:

www.lifeline.org.nz



7. Skylight

At Skylight you can talk to a trained counsellor.

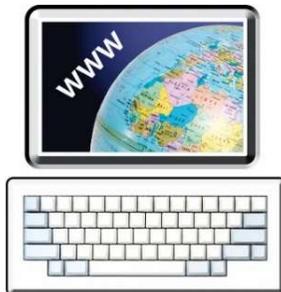


You can talk to a counsellor if you are going through a difficult time.



You can phone:

0800 299 100



You can find more information about Skylight on their website:

www.skylight.org.nz



8. 0800 What's Up

0800 What's Up is a counselling service for:



- tamariki / children
- rangatahi / young people.



Children and young people can:

- phone:

0800 942 8787

- chat online at:

www.whatsup.co.nz



You can find more information about 0800 What's Up on their **website**:



www.whatsup.co.nz



9. Youthline

Youthline is a counselling service for:



- tamariki / children
- rangatahi / young people.



Children and young people can:

- phone: **0800 376 633**
- text: **234**
- chat online:



www.youthline.co.nz



You can find more information about Youthline on their website:

www.youthline.co.nz

Where to find more information



The Ministry of Justice has more information about parenting arrangements on their website:

www.justice.govt.nz/care-of-children



You can also talk to someone at the Ministry of Justice by calling:

0800 224 733



This information has been written by
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