

Date:

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest in making a referral to the New Start Service. New Start specializes in services for families where one parent has an offending background. Acceptance of any referral depends on eligibility and vacancies.

Accordingly, we enclose a referral package. This package includes the following:

- Referral form
- Risk criteria and guidelines
- Information brochures for professional providers
- Information Sheets for clients/partners in the community.

Broadly the entry criteria for our intensive, long-term family support programme is as follows:

- Prison inmates must be within four months of release
- Prison inmates must be intending to live in Christchurch on release
- Prison inmates must be intending (and able) to live with and accepting a parenting role with a child under the age of 6mths on release, or pregnant or have a partner who is pregnant- post 24wks
- Clients in the community must have had a conviction within the previous two years
- Clients must fit the referral criteria provided in the brochures
- Clients must be prepared to receive a Social Worker in their own home
- Referrals for offenders on community based sentences are able to be accepted

The enclosed risk criteria and guidelines have been developed to ensure that only **high-risk** clients receive our services. If you need assistance with the form and the scoring system please contact Bill Pringle, Clinical Service Manager and he will be happy to assist you.

Fax or post the referral to us and we will attend to it immediately. If you are able to scan signatures, feel free to e mail the completed forms. (bill@familyhelptrust.org.nz)

The Family Help Trust was set up to work with those clients who have multiple problems, and for this reason field staff have relatively small caseloads. A family can continue to receive our support up until the enrolled child reaches school age.

If we do not currently have a vacancy we will inform you as to the expected waiting time. On principle we only keep a small waiting list.

Yours sincerely,



Libby Robins
Director