

19 December 2017

C91267

Elisha Lane
fyi-request-6924-01e902c6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Lane

Thank you for your email of 30 November 2017, requesting information about wedding applications and marriages of prisoners. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The importance of positive relationships in reducing re-offending, and the significant role that friends, family and spouses can play in prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration are widely acknowledged. With this in mind, it is Corrections' policy to support the establishment or maintenance of relationships such as marriage where it does not pose a threat to the safety of the community, our prisons, or a member of the public.

You have asked a number of questions concerning prisoners' right to marry, and for information about Auckland South Corrections Facility (ACSF) specifically. I will answer your questions in the order you have raised them.

- 1. How to apply*
- 2. Why would an inmate be declined*
- 3. What is the next step after reapplying with the prison director*
- 4. Do inmates have the right to marry*

Information regarding how a prisoner can make an application for a wedding or civil union service, reasons why they may be declined, the next step after applying with the prison director, and a prisoner's right to marry is set out in the Prison Operation Manual under section F.09 *Prisoner Wedding/Civil Union*, which is available at: http://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy_and_legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Prisoner-finance-activities/F-9.html. Therefore, this part of your request is refused in accordance with section 18(d) of the OIA as the information requested is publicly available.

5. Has A.S.C.F ever approved any one to marry

6. How many marriages have taken place at A.S.C.F

I can advise that no marriages have been approved or taken place at ASCF.

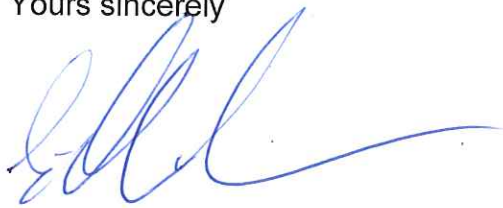
7. How do I request information on an inmates reasons for their wedding application being declined

If the decision is to decline the application, the prison director must inform the prisoner in person and inform them that they can review this decision through the prisoner complaint process, or whānau/family by contacting the Inspector or Ombudsman.

If you wish to request information on the reason a wedding application was declined, you will need to gain consent from the prisoner as it is their private information.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Department. Alternatively you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Gillon Carruthers
General Manager Public Affairs
Corporate Services