

OUT OF COURT



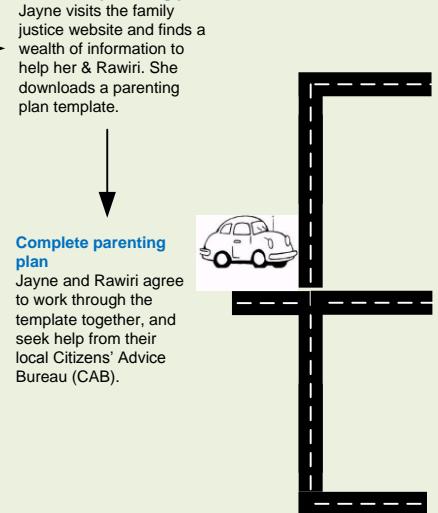
FAMILY JUSTICE JOURNEY 1

Jayne and Rawiri separated six months ago. Jayne is looking after their son, Jason, but now that Jason is starting school, neither can agree on Jason's care arrangements.

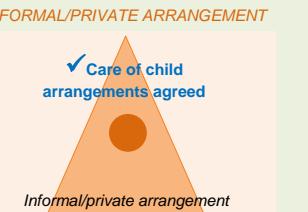
Jayne talks to a friend about the situation and the friend tells Jayne about the family justice website.



Download parenting plan
Jayne visits the family justice website and finds a wealth of information to help her & Rawiri. She downloads a parenting plan template.



Informally agree to abide by parenting plan
After several weeks, they complete the plan with support from the CAB and their families. Both Jayne and Rawiri agree to abide by the plan.



INFORMAL/PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT

Complete parenting plan
Jayne and Rawiri agree to work through the template together, and seek help from their local Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB).

Agree, but not sure about long-term commitment
After several weeks, they complete the plan. But Rawiri isn't confident Jayne will abide by the plan, so he visits the local Community Law Centre (CLC) for information on what else he can do.

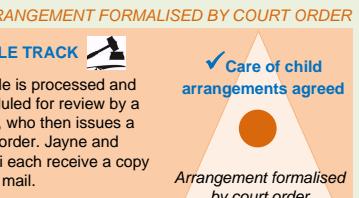
Option to get a court order
While there, he learns that he and Jayne can apply to have the plan formalised as a court order (made enforceable by the Family Court).

Family Legal Advice Service
He also learns about a service offering initial legal advice about care of children issues. The CLC tells him it helps him check his eligibility for funding (he learns he is eligible) but Rawiri thinks that he can manage by himself at this stage, if Jayne agrees.

Complete court forms
He downloads the court forms from the family justice website and he and Jayne complete them. They both head down to the Family Court to file them.

File court forms
A court official receives the application and checks it, along with the affidavit and the completed parenting plan. They pay the standard fee and await the outcome.

SIMPLE TRACK
The file is processed and scheduled for review by a judge, who then issues a court order. Jayne and Rawiri each receive a copy in the mail.



Arrangement formalised by court order

i Go to the family justice website for the following information:

- Out-of-court processes, where to find Parenting Through Separation (PTS) programmes, Family Dispute resolution (FDR) mediators and family lawyers providing Family Legal Advice
- In-court processes, forms, and information on what will happen to your application if you go to family court
- Prerequisites you have to complete before going to court
- Detailed explanations of the orders you can seek if you do go to court
- Information for people representing themselves

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