



Safeguarding Key Messages

September 2019

Clare's Law



What is Clare's Law?

Domestic violence and abuse is a devastating crime that shatters the lives of victims and families.

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) – often referred to as “Clare’s Law” after the tragic case of Clare Wood, who was murdered by her former partner in Greater Manchester in 2009 – was rolled out across all 43 police forces in England and Wales in March 2014 following the successful completion of a 14 month pilot. The Scheme was introduced to set out procedures that could be used by the police in relation to disclosure of information about previous violent and abusive offending by a potentially violent individual to their partner where this may help protect them from further violent and abusive offending.

Every request under Clare’s Law is thoroughly checked by a panel made up of police, probation services and other agencies to ensure information is only passed on where it is lawful, proportionate and necessary. Trained police officers and advisers are then on hand to support victims through the difficult and sometimes dangerous transitional period. The scheme aims to help individuals to make a more informed decision on whether to continue a relationship, and provides further help and support to assist them when making that choice.

Clare’s Law, or the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, has two functions:

- ‘**right to ask**’ - this enables someone to ask the police about a partner’s previous history of domestic violence or violent acts. A precedent for such a scheme exists with the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme; and
- ‘**right to know**’ - police can proactively disclose information in prescribed circumstances.

Who can ask for a disclosure?

Any person can make an application about their partner, they do not need to have any specific reason or concerns but are just being careful. Any concerned third party, such as a parent, neighbour or friend can also make an application if they are concerned. However, information will only be given to someone who is in a position to use the information to protect that person from abuse.

If you believe there is an immediate risk of harm to someone, or it is an emergency, you should always call the police on 999.

Statistics

90 applications are made a week with 44% resulting in a disclosure

Globally 38% of all murdered women are killed by their partner

Domestic violence by husbands, boyfriends or partners is by far the most reported form of violence against women. In most extreme cases it can lead to homicide.

Two women are killed each week by a current or former partner in England and Wales.

Useful Contact Information

Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Helpline
– 0800 980 3331

Refuge & National Women's Aid (available 24/7) –
0808 2000 247

Men's Advice Line –
0808 801 0327

Stalking Helpline –
0808 802 0300

National LGBT Helpline –
0300 999 5428

National Centre for Domestic Violence –
0844 8044 999

Rape Crisis –
0808 802 9999

To find out more about the scheme or to make an enquiry contact:

- '101' and ask for your local police force
- visit a police station

WORRIED

that your partner could be abusive?

The domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law) gives you the **right to ask** the police if your partner has a history of domestic abuse. **Nobody should feel unsafe in a relationship.**



If you or someone you know is at risk of **DOMESTIC ABUSE**

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO ASK

for more information to help protect them

CLARE'S LAW