

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme

Clare's Law

What is the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme?

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, also known as Clare's Law was introduced in 2014 and is named after Clare Wood who was murdered in 2009 by her ex-partner who had a history of violence towards women.

The scheme allows information to be shared with an individual regarding the criminal history of their partner in relation to domestic abuse and any other information deemed proportionate and necessary to enable the individual to keep themselves safe and to prevent further crime.

Who can apply?

Anybody can apply, including; a family member, friend, neighbour, professional or the individual themselves.

Right to know: Police can disclose information to someone they believe may be at risk, without that individual requesting the information.

Right to ask: Allows any member of the public to request information to protect themselves or someone else they believe may be at risk.

Important: The perpetrator/abuser would not be made aware of the application or the disclosure.

How to make an application?

Right to Ask/ Right to Know

Everyone has the right to ask if their partner has a previous history of domestic abuse. This can be done by contacting your local Police force on 101 or attending your local Police station and simply asking for a Clare's Law disclosure by providing some details about yourself and your partner.

An application for a disclosure can also be made online via <https://www.cleveland.police.uk/>

If you are a family member, friend, neighbour or professional concerned about an individual you feel may be a risk of abuse from a partner, you can also make an application. However, in most cases, only the person considered to be at risk would be provided with any relevant information, you would not receive the disclosure.

You can request a Clare's Law disclosure on behalf of someone else if you are concerned about them by contacting your local Police force on 101, attending your local Police station or visiting <https://www.cleveland.police.uk/> and submitting an online disclosure application.

What happens next?

The application will be submitted to the relevant Police department who will carry out all necessary checks against the person considered to be the abuser. If there is no information to share, contact will be made with the individual to advise that this is the case – only where they have submitted the application themselves or are aware someone else has requested this on their behalf.

Although there may be no information to share in relation to the person's criminal history this does not necessarily mean that there have not been previous incidents of abuse, just that it may not have been reported to Police.

If there is information to share, a panel of professionals will decide whether the information should be disclosed, as a disclosure can only legally be made if it is necessary, proportionate and there is a pressing need to prevent further crime.

You will then be contacted to arrange a convenient appointment at a safe location of your choice with a plain clothed Police Officer and a specialist Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate. Any information shared is completely confidential and must not be shared with anyone else without prior permission from the Police.

If you believe there is an immediate risk of harm to yourself or another, or it is an emergency then you should contact 999.

Support and Advice

There are a number of specialist services across Tees who provide advice and support in relation to domestic abuse, a list of services and contact details can be found our website:

<https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/find-support-in-your-area/>

For more information on Domestic Abuse or Clare's Law you can access the below:

<https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/general-public/domestic-violence/>

<https://refuge.org.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help>

<https://www.cleveland.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/alpha2/request-information-under-clares-law/>

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