

Sefton Safer Families Practice Hub

One Minute Guide

Clare's Law Disclosure

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), known as Clare's Law enables the police to disclose information to a victim or potential victim of domestic abuse about their partner's or ex-partner's previous abusive or violent offending.

Under Clare's Law a person can:

- Apply for information about their current or ex-partner because they are worried, they may have a history of abuse and are a potential risk to them.
- Request information about the current or ex-partner of a friend or relative because you're worried, they might be at risk.

A disclosure under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme may be generated by a:

- Right to Know – obligation on the police to disclose; or
- Right to Ask – application from a member of the public

How To Make A Request

A Clare's Law request can be made by calling 101, online or at a police station.

Online requests can be made at:
<https://www.merseyside.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse>

When A DVDS May Not Be Needed?

When a full police disclosure has been obtained by children's social care. The Social Worker can share basic details of risk, omitting any names. This will ensure that victims are aware that there is a domestic abuse history.

The GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children and young people safe.

What Happens When An Application Is Made?

The police will assess if the person named in the application is a risk to their partner based on previous violence or abuse convictions. They will seek support from the IDVA service if a domestic abuse professional is required for the visit. The survivor may need support following disclosure.

IMPORTANT

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

Further Reading

Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers. Available at: [Information sharing: advice for practitioners](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/671113/Information-sharing-advice-for-practitioners.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)).