**Clare’s Law Factsheet**

**Clare's Law**, often known officially as a **Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS)** or similar, designates several ways for police officers to disclose a person's history of abusive behaviour to those who may be at risk from such behaviour. It is intended to reduce domestic abuse.

The scheme has two elements: the “Right to Ask” and the “Right to Know”.

“**Right to Ask**” - under the scheme an individual or relevant third party (for example, a family member) can ask the police to check whether a current or ex-partner has a violent or abusive past. If records show that an individual may be at risk of domestic abuse from a partner or ex-partner, the police will consider disclosing the information.

“**Right to Know**” - enables the police to make a disclosure on their own initiative if they receive information about the violent or abusive behaviour of a person that may impact on the safety of that person’s current or ex-partner. This could be information arising from a criminal investigation, through statutory or third sector agency involvement, or from another source of police intelligence.

This can be quite a distressing thing to do, so please request the assistance of an IDVA (consent permitting) to support to survivor.

To make a request follow this link: [Request information under Clare's Law: Make a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) application | Metropolitan Police](https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/alpha2/request-information-under-clares-law/)

Useful links:

[Request information under Clare's Law: Make a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) application | Metropolitan Police](https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/alpha2/request-information-under-clares-law/)

[Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme factsheet - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets/domestic-violence-disclosure-scheme-factsheet#background)