

Guidance Note Clare's Law and Sarah's Law

Date: November 2022

The following information has been extracted from a briefing that was distributed to Wokingham Children's Services by the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership in August 2022. It has been reproduced as a WBC Guidance Note with the permission of the author.

Clare's Law

- Clare's Law is a domestic abuse disclosure scheme designed to give members of the public a formal mechanism to make enquiries about people who they are in a relationship with - or someone who is in a relationship with someone they know - where a concern arises that that person may be abusive towards their partner.
- 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.
- Anyone can make an application about an individual in an intimate relationship with another person where there is concern that the individual may cause that person harm.
- The person making the application does not necessarily receive information about the individual concerned as it may be more appropriate for someone else to receive the information - such as a potential victim or another person who is best placed to protect the victim.
- There are different ways you can contact the police to make enquiries under Clare's Law - such as visiting the police station, phoning 101 the non-emergency number for the police, or speaking to a member of the police on the street.
- If you believe there to be an immediate risk of harm or an emergency situation you should always call 999.

For more information please visit: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/alpha2/request-information-under-clares-law/>

or watch: <https://youtu.be/A4fnLyntKUE>

Sarah's Law

- The Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (CSODS) lets you formally ask the police whether someone who has contact with a child or children:
 - has a record for child sexual (paedophile) offences
 - poses a risk to the child or children for some other reason
- It is not a law, but it is sometimes called 'Sarah's Law'. It gives guidance on how you can ask the police to use their existing police powers to share information about sex offenders.
- If you are worried about someone's behaviour towards a child, or something you have seen, heard or been told, you can use Sarah's Law to find out if that person is a risk.
- You must apply for information about a specific person and a specific child or children they spend time with. You cannot apply for general information about child sex offenders.
- Anyone who is worried about someone's behaviour towards a child can apply, not just a child's parents. This includes people like a grandparent, neighbour or friend.
- No matter who makes the application, if there is information that the police decides to share, they will tell whoever can use the information to keep the child safe. This might not be the person who made the application, it might be someone else (like the child's parents).
- You can apply for information on behalf of one child, or more than one child, at a time.
- There are different ways you can contact the police to make an enquiry under the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme, such as applying online, phoning 101 the non-emergency number for the police, or going to your local police station.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/rqo/request/ri/request-information/sarajs-law-beta/sarajs-law-child-sex-offender-disclosure-scheme/>