

WHAT IS CLARE'S LAW? (Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme)

Background

Clare Wood was murdered by her ex-boyfriend, George Appleton, in 2009. Unbeknown to her, he had a history of violence towards women. Following her death, Clare's family said that if she had known about this record of violence, it is likely she'd still be alive today. They campaigned for a new scheme to enable people to find out about the risks posed by their partner.

Clare's Law, or the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, was introduced in March 2014. It gives anyone the right to ask the police if their partner has been abusive in the past and the right to know and be given the information. The request for information is entirely confidential and could potentially save a life.

How the Scheme works:

The aim of the scheme is to:

- give you formal ways to make enquiries about your partner if you are worried that they may have been abusive in the past
- help you to make a more informed decision on whether to continue a relationship
- provide further help and support to assist you when making that choice.

If police checks show that your partner has a record of violent behaviour, or if there is other information to indicate that you may be at risk from your partner, the police will consider sharing this information with you.



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Who can make the Application?

You can make an application about your partner if you have a concern that they may harm you.

Any concerned third party, such as your parents, neighbours or friends can also make an application if they are concerned about you.

However, if someone else applies they would not receive any information about your partner.

Information will only be given to the person in the relationship.

- OR -

Information will be given to someone who is in a position to protect you from the abuse.

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