

# Clare's Law

Domestic Violence  
Disclosure Scheme

[www.mansfield.gov.uk/  
domesticviolence](http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/domesticviolence)



**Mansfield**  
District Council

# What is the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme?

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme – also known as Clare’s Law – is named after Clare Wood who was killed in 2009 by an ex-partner who unknown to her had been violent to previous partners.

The aim of the scheme is to increase public safety and give victims of domestic abuse better protection by providing sufficient information to survivors so that they can make choices around their safety.

## 1. Right to Ask: For the public

Clare’s Law gives individuals an official mechanism to ask about their partner if they are worried they may have been abusive in the past, or if they know their partner has an abusive history and want support to keep themselves safe. This is known as the ‘Right to Ask.’

The scheme also enables a friend or family member to make an application if they feel that someone they know is at risk from their partner. However, a third party making an application would not necessarily receive the information.

## 2. Right to Know: For the police or partner agency

Professionals can also make an application where they have concerns about a person at risk of domestic abuse. This is known as the ‘Right to Know.’

If there is information to suggest someone is at risk, the police will consider sharing information with that individual.

## How do I make an application?

By contacting Nottinghamshire Police on 101 or visiting a police station to speak with an officer explaining that you want to use the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme.

## What happens after I make a request for information?

The police will ask you for your details and the information about who you are concerned about and why. They will then carry out some checks and may speak to other agencies such as Probation and Social Care.

A multi-agency meeting will be held to decide whether to make a disclosure and who should receive the information. A safety plan will also be set up to provide help and support which may involve some of the agencies who have made the decision.

## Who will information be disclosed to?

In most cases the disclosure is made to the person at risk of harm. On other occasions the disclosure will be made to another person in a position to protect and safeguard the person at risk.

If you have concerns about the partner of someone you know the information may not be disclosed to you. It may be disclosed to the person you are worried about, or someone who is most able to safeguard the person.

Not all applications result in disclosure where information is held. The decision to disclose is done on a case by case basis.

## For further support

Contact Nottinghamshire Police on **101**

In an emergency always ring **999**

If you would like additional help and support on domestic abuse you can contact the Nottinghamshire 24 hour helpline on **0808 800 0340**

For more detailed information about the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme visit [www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/claeslaw](http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/claeslaw)

For additional advice  
[www.mansfield.gov.uk/  
domesticviolence](http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/domesticviolence)

**Working together to prevent domestic abuse:**



Nottinghamshire  
**Women's Aid**  
Survive & Thrive



**Mansfield**  
District Council