

Clare's Law

Bill 141



Clare's Law started in the United Kingdom in 2014 after a woman named Clare Wood was murdered by a former partner who police knew had a violent record, but the information was not disclosed to her.

Clare's father pursued this legislation in the UK under the belief that if Clare had known about her partner's history of violence towards women, her life could have been spared.

Saskatchewan is the first province in Canada to implement "Clare's Law" which came into force June 29, 2020

What is Clare's Law

Clare's Law is an act that authorizes a police service to disclose certain risk-related information to a current or former intimate partner to assist them in making informed decisions about their safety and relationship.



Procedures For Disclosing Information

There are two procedures for disclosing information:

1. The Right to Ask - involves a member of the public applying to a police service for disclosure.
2. The Right to Know - involves a police service making a proactive decision to disclose information to protect a potential victim.

The Right To Ask

- An application can be made to a police service by a member of the public who feels they are at risk.
- A third party can also make a request on behalf of another person with whom they have a close personal relationship that they feel may be at risk. For example, a parent could make an application on behalf of their child.

How To Make An Application

- Ideally an application for Clare's Law disclosure should be made in person at a police service where an application form will be provided to the applicant.
- If a criminal act is disclosed during the application, a police officer must pursue normal criminal investigative procedures at this time.



- An initial check will be completed as soon as possible to assess whether there is an immediate or imminent risk of harm to the applicant and to assess whether the application should proceed.
- If the decision is made to progress further the application is then forwarded to an investigating officer who will contact the applicant to arrange a face-to-face meeting within the next 10 business days.
- At the face-to-face meeting further information will be obtained from the applicant to assist in the application and gathering of information required to forward to a Multi Sector Review Committee.

The Multi Sector Review Committee

Once the investigating officer completes gathering information from the applicant and any outside sources that may have information pertaining to the application, the file is then forwarded to the Multi Sector Review Committee.

While it will be for the police service to make a final decision on whether a disclosure should be made to the applicant, this should be done with the input of the Multi Sector Review Committee (MSRC).

The MSRC will review the application in its entirety and come to a decision on what information should be recommended for disclosure to the applicant by the police service.

What Will Be Disclosed?

The MSRC will consider information provided to them by the application and the investigating officer. This will allow them to categorize the applicant into one of three categories: LOW, MEDIUM, or HIGH risk.

Only the category of risk identified by the MSRC and relevant criminal convictions of the subject will be released as disclosure. These criminal convictions are convictions that are of public record and relevant to the risk of the applicant. Only those convictions that may indicate an increased risk of interpersonal violence will be released. The details of the convictions will not be disclosed, but rather the severity of the conviction will be reflected in the categorization of the risk.

The Disclosure Process

- Disclosure will be made to the applicant by a member of the police service, however the MSRC will consider whether there are other support agencies that should also be available during the disclosure.
- Prior to receiving the disclosure the applicant will be advised that the disclosure must only be used for the purpose for which it has been shared and asked to sign an agreement stating the information is confidential and they will not disclose it further.
- Disclosure to the applicant will be verbal only and no personal information about the subject will be shared. At no time will written correspondence concerning the disclosure be sent or left with the applicant.

- It is strongly recommended, regardless of whether the applicant is categorized as low, medium or high risk, that support services be immediately available to the applicant, with their consent, after disclosure is made.
- The entire process, from application to disclosure, should be completed within 30 days if possible.



Further Information

- For further information or assistance regarding the application process please contact your local police agency.
- For more information regarding Clare's Law in the Province of Saskatchewan please visit the Government of Saskatchewan website at www.saskatchewan.ca.