

Clare's Law in Alberta

Key Information for the Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence (Clare's Law) Act

Purpose of the law

Clare's Law allows people to make informed choices about potentially harmful intimate partner relationships, and is an important tool in protecting Albertans from domestic violence.

The Right to Ask

Albertans have a right to ask for information regarding their current or former intimate partner's potential risk for domestic violence. A person can also apply on behalf of someone else if they have their consent, are a legal guardian of the applicant, or have legal authority of the person. Applicants must provide a reason for why they are asking for information. The person of disclosure will not be made aware an application was made about them.

The Right to Know

Police can apply, through the Right to Know process, to proactively provide relevant information to an individual if they have reason to suspect intimate partner violence is likely to occur.

Applications

Applications are available online at <http://Alberta.ca/ClaresLaw>

Eligibility

To be eligible for Clare's Law a person must:

- Live in Alberta
- Be in an intimate partner relationship
- Have a reason for applying which details why you feel at risk

- Have met the person they have requested information on
- Be willing to talk to, and meet with police to receive disclosure information

Supports and services

During the Clare's Law process, the applicant and/or person-at-risk will be asked at various times if they want to be connected with social supports. If they do, they will be referred to an appropriate service.

Disclosure

Disclosure is information provided by police to a person at risk.

If risk is determined to be present, disclosure must occur in person.

If the risk is low or there is insufficient information to determine risk, disclosure can occur via telephone.

Disclosure will only be provided verbally; physical documentation will not be provided.

Disclosure will not occur if:

- the applicant has not met the person-of-disclosure, in person;
- the application is determined to have been made with malicious intent;
- the intent is to use any information received for a purpose other than informing their safety;
- an application is being made for the purpose of use in legal proceedings, such as child custody hearings or divorce proceedings;
- the person seeking disclosure will not meet with police.

For more information, visit Alberta.ca/ClaresLaw

