

'Right to Ask'

The 'Right to Ask' scheme enables you to make enquiries about your partner if you are worried that they may have been abusive in the past.

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

The reason for sharing this information with you is to help you make a more informed decision on whether to continue a relationship. Our local support service, GDASS (*Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service*) can also offer help and support to you when making this choice.



Who can ask for a disclosure?

A disclosure under this Scheme is the sharing of specific information about your partner with either you or a third person for the purpose of protecting you from domestic violence and abuse.

- 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 parent, neighbour or friend can also make an application if they are concerned about you;
- However, a third party person making an application would not necessarily receive information about your partner. It may be more appropriate for someone else to receive the information, such as you, or a person that is in a position to protect you from the abuse.
- Information will only be given to someone who is in a position to use the information to protect you from the abuse.

How do I make an application?

If you are being supported by GDASS then speak to your GDASS worker in the first instance.

Alternatively, you must complete an application form which you can access by:

- Visiting a police station (*Gloucester, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Stow, Stroud, Tewkesbury, Coleford*)
- Visiting Gloucestershire Constabulary website (www.gloucestershire.police.uk) and printing a form off yourself.

Once the application form is completed, please bring this together with two forms of ID to the police station where the process will begin. The two forms of ID must include one photo ID

- either a passport, photo driving licence or student ID and another form of ID
- a household utility bill; your bank statement, your benefit book, or birth certificate.

If you believe there is an immediate risk of harm to someone, or it is an emergency, you should always call 999.

'Right to Know'

Under this strand of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, you may receive a disclosure even if you have not asked for one. That is because, if the police receive information about your partner which they consider puts you at risk of harm from domestic violence and abuse, then they may consider disclosing that information to you or another person who they consider best placed to protect you.

The decision to disclose information when you have not asked for a disclosure will be made by the multi-agency meeting, and the disclosure will only be made if it is lawful and proportionate, and there is a pressing need to make the disclosure to prevent further crime.

Contact numbers

For more information about the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme please contact

Gloucestershire Police on 101

or **GDASS on 0845 602 9035**

(Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service)

Other local support services

- GDVSAP
01452 500115
- Hope House SARC
01452 754390
- Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre
01452 526770

National support services

- National Domestic Violence Helpline
0808 2000 247
- Broken Rainbow
0300 999 5428
- Men's Advice Line
0808 801 0327
- Stalking Helpline
0808 802 0300

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme

(Clare's Law)

'Keeping victims safe from Domestic Violence and Abuse'

This leaflet is for you if you are in a relationship and you are worried that your partner may have been abusive in the past.

The aim of this scheme is to safeguard individuals from harm caused by domestic abuse. There are two strands to this scheme 'Right to Ask' and 'Right to Know'.



GPPB
Gloucestershire
Public Protection Bureau