

Clare's Law Multi-Sector Review Committee Annual Report, 2024



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This report provides information on Clare's Law applications and disclosures in Saskatchewan in 2024, as well as in previous years. This is the second annual report of the Saskatchewan Multi-Sector Review Committee (MSRC) for Clare's Law. The first report comprised data from the first four years of Clare's Law in Saskatchewan (2020 to 2023).¹

Clare's Law in Saskatchewan

The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare's Law) Act came into force in Saskatchewan on June 29, 2020.² Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to enact this legislation, which allows police to disclose information to individuals who may be at risk of violence from their intimate partner. Since its enactment, individuals have been able to request information under Clare's Law at municipal police stations and as of April 1, 2021, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Saskatchewan joined in facilitating access to Clare's Law, expanding its accessibility across the province.³

Saskatchewan's legislation is modelled after *The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS)*, also known as Clare's Law, which was enacted in England and Wales in 2014. The DVDS, as well as Saskatchewan's legislation, are named after Clare Wood, who was murdered in 2009 by a former partner who had a history of violence. Police were aware that Clare's former partner had a record of violence, but that information was never disclosed to Clare, despite her seeking help from police for stalking and harassment from the man who would later brutally murder her. Following her death, Clare's father advocated for the creation of the DVDS in the United Kingdom, firmly believing that if Clare had known about her partner's history of violence towards women, she could have taken additional steps to plan for safety and would still be alive today.

Clare's Law grants eligible individuals the right to request information about their partners' history of violent or abusive behaviour from law enforcement agencies. By offering access to such information, Clare's Law is meant to be proactive rather than reactive. Clare's Law intends to empower individuals with knowledge to make informed decisions about their relationships and potentially identify risks of intimate partner violence.

There are two routes to access Clare's Law: 1) "Right to ask," triggered by a member of the public applying to a police service for a disclosure, and 2) "Right to know," where the police service makes a proactive decision to disclose information to protect a potential victim.

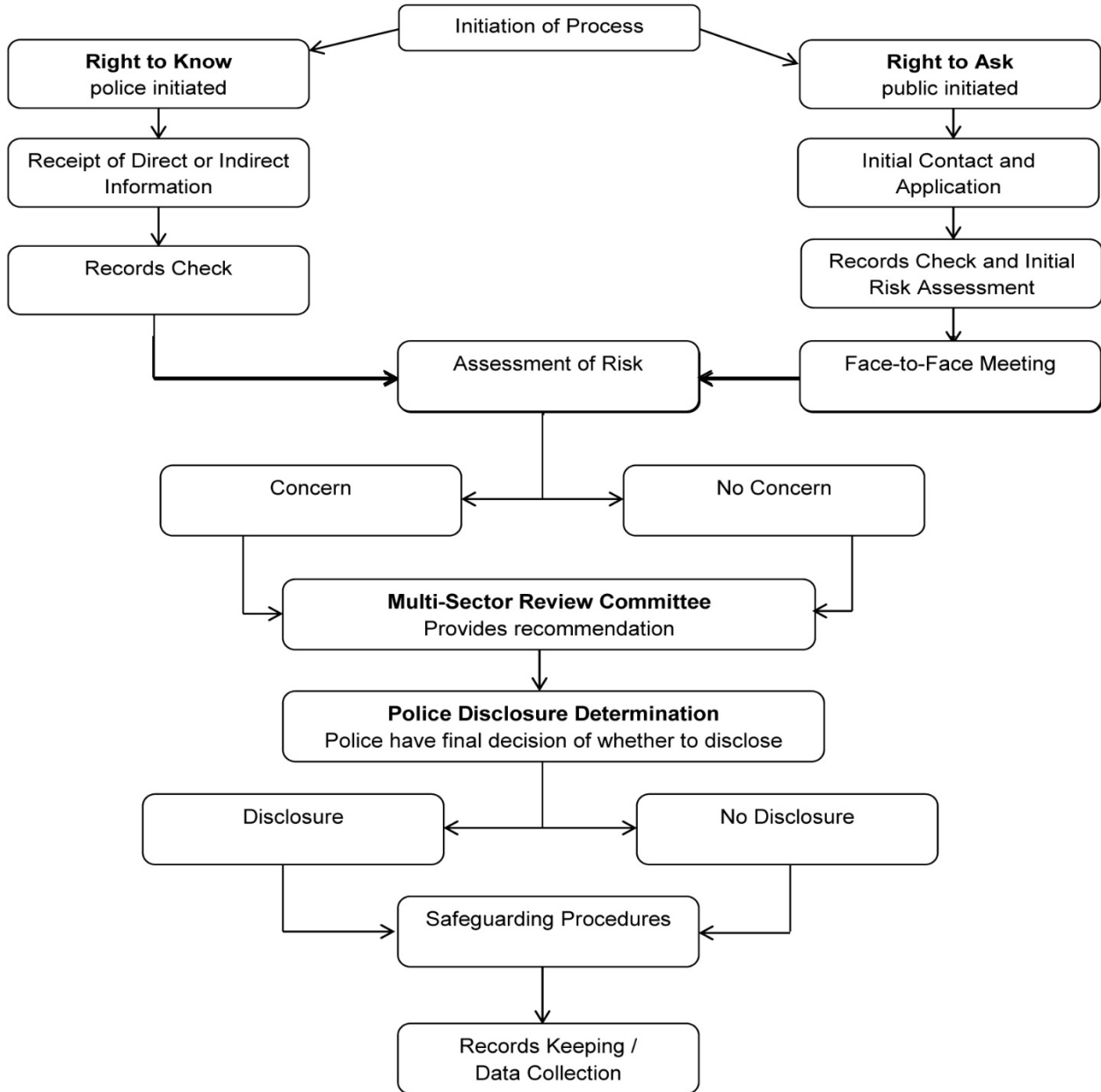
The Clare's Law process begins with a proactive decision to initiate the process made by a member of a police service, or an initial request made to the police by a member of the public, often prompted by concerns about a partner's behaviour. After the request is received, the police, taking into consideration safety and well-being, conduct a thorough assessment. Following this assessment, "right to ask" applications are referred to the MSRC. The MSRC reviews relevant anonymized information relating to the individual in question and provides a recommendation to the police service regarding the disclosure of information. The MSRC also highlights relevant risk

¹ *Clare's Law Multi-Sector Review Committee Annual Report, 2023*. (2023). Saskatchewan Clare's Law Multi-Sector Review Committee. <https://pathssk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Clares-Law-Annual-Report-2023.pdf>

² Government of Saskatchewan. (2020). *Saskatchewan is the first province in Canada to implement "Clare's Law."* <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/june/29/claress-law>

³ Government of Canada. (2021). *RCMP can now participate in Clare's Law legislation in Saskatchewan and Alberta.* <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2021/03/rcmp-can-now-participate-in-clares-law-legislation-in-saskatchewan-and-alberta.html>

factors, safety strategies, and referral recommendations for police officers to share with the at-risk individual when making a disclosure.



The MSRC comprises representatives from the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS), victim services, and law enforcement (Regina Police Service, Saskatoon Police Service, Prince Albert Police Service, and the RCMP) who have expertise relating to intimate partner violence. In 2024, MSRC members included:

Police

Inspector Chris Jackiw, Regina Police Service—MSRC Chair
Dr. Danielle DeSorcy, Clinical Psychologist, Regina Police Service
Staff Sergeant Dale Amyotte, Interpersonal Violence Section, Saskatoon Police Service
Sergeant Rhonda Meakin, Prince Albert Police Service
Detective Constable Brad Grolla, Prince Albert Police Service
Sergeant Roxanne Hudym, F Division Relationship Violence Coordinator, RCMP
Sergeant Kimberley Stewart, F Division Interpersonal Violence Outreach, RCMP

PATHS

Jo-Anne Dusel, Executive Director, PATHS
Crystal Giesbrecht, Director of Research, PATHS

Victim Services

Jen Renwick, Director, Gender Based Violence Prevention Services, Family Service Regina
Colleen Keewatin, Domestic Violence Caseworker, Family Service Regina
Karen Closs, Director, Victim Services, Government of Saskatchewan
Katelyn Putland, (Acting) Interpersonal Violence Specialist, Government of Saskatchewan
Roseanne Tkachuk, Interpersonal Violence Specialist, Government of Saskatchewan

Clare's Law Applications and Disclosures

The MSRC tracks information including: intake date, MSRC review date, and date recommendations returned; submitting police agencies; application type (right to ask, right to know); applicant (person at risk, third party); determination of risk; disclosure provided and to whom (person at risk, third party); and if the person at risk accepted a referral to support services.

This section presents annual statistics on Clare's Law requests and disclosures in Saskatchewan for 2024 and previous years. These statistics encompass the total volume of applications received by the MSRC from police agencies in Saskatchewan.

	2020 ¹	2021	2022	2023	2024
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Applications

Total applications	6	23	20	14	22
Disclosure provided	5	16	16	9	20

Application Type

Right to ask	5	21	14	12	18
Right to know	1	2	6	2	4

Applicant

Person at risk	4	15	17	12	16
Third party	2	8	3	2	6

Risk Level

High	4	14	12	8	17
Medium	2	2	2	3	4
Low	0	2	1	0	0
None indicated	0	5	2	3	1

Support Services

Accepted connection to services	5	11	13	9	20
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Note: ¹ As Clare's Law came into force on June 29, 2020, these numbers cover a six-month period.