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## Clare's Law

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme - known as **Clare's Law** - is intended to provide information that could protect someone from being a victim of attack.

The initiative is named after 36-year-old Clare Wood who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in 2009.

**If you're worried that your partner, or the partner of a close friend or family member, may have a history of domestic abuse, Clare's Law gives you the right to ask for this information.**

**Clare's Law is a national scheme** that ensures people can make informed decisions about their relationship and make changes if necessary. Absolutely anyone can apply to use Clare's Law and request information from the police.

**The domestic violence disclosure scheme is free and always 100% confidential.** So if you're worried about your own relationship, or someone else's, you can ask the police to check the record- you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Anyone can make an enquiry about an individual who they are in a relationship with or who is in a relationship with someone they know, and there is a concern that the individual may be abusive towards their partner.

### How do I do this?

You need to make a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) application by either calling 101 or completing an online form, found here:

<https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/alpha2/request-information-under-clares-law/>

A disclosure can take place if it is lawful, necessary and proportionate to do so.

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## Child Protection at The Rowans - Important contacts

### Designated Safeguarding Lead

F May: Head Teacher

[fiona.may@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:fiona.may@therowansap.co.uk)

G Webb: SENCO

[gwen.webb@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:gwen.webb@therowansap.co.uk)

### Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Becky Jones: Welfare and Attendance Lead

[rebecca.jones@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.jones@therowansap.co.uk)

Jo Skinner: Inclusions, Interventions and Mental Health Lead

[joanne.skinner@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:joanne.skinner@therowansap.co.uk)

### Trustees for Safeguarding

Susan Greenfield

[susan.greenfield@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:susan.greenfield@therowansap.co.uk)

Karen Price

[karen.price@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:karen.price@therowansap.co.uk)

The school's safeguarding and child protection policy is available on our website:

<https://www.therowans.org/policies-and-info/policies>

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# The Rowans AP Academy

## Understanding Domestic Abuse....

### You are not alone



**Please take a leaflet and seek support from us**

Silverbank, Churchill Avenue  
Chatham, Kent ME5 0LB  
01634 33 8803

Email – [office@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:office@therowansap.co.uk)



[www.therowans.org](http://www.therowans.org)

@TherowansAP

The Rowans AP Academy

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## What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic Abuse is not just physical violence. Domestic abuse is threats, violence and coercive or controlling behavior between people who have a relationship with each other (or have had in the past). It can happen between partners, within families or shared homes. It happens within heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender relationships. It happens between people of all cultures, religions or social groups. **IT IS BASED ON ONE PERSON HAVING CONTROL OVER ANOTHER AND IT OFTEN GETS WORSE OVER TIME.**

### Are there different types of domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse takes many forms including (but not limited to) physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse. It also includes digital abuse, using smart phones and social networking to harass and intimidate.

### Some facts about Domestic Abuse

- Studies show that one in four women and one in six men will experience domestic abuse during their life.
- The police will get a call every minute from someone who is experiencing domestic abuse.
- Domestic abuse victims are often made to feel like they won't be believed or are threatened with further abuse – either towards the victim, their children or a family member – if they tell anyone what's happening.
- On average a victim of domestic abuse will have been assaulted 35 times before contacting the police.
- Mental Health issues are more likely to result from domestic abuse than cause it.

### You Are Not Alone....

All staff at The Rowans receive regular training in safeguarding and child protection and all have a duty of care towards the pupils.

In a large number of cases, children are often present in the home when a parent is being abused, either being directly harmed themselves or being witness to the abuse.

Mrs May (Headteacher) is a trained Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Champion. She can offer help and advice and can signpost to relevant specialist support services.

### How we can help

If you are a victim of domestic abuse, we can help. We will:

Listen to you in a non-judgmental way, prioritising your safety.

Give you practical advice to help increase your safety and that of your children.

Help explore your options and encourage you to make your own choices.

Offer a referral to a specialist support agency in Medway, including Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVA) and the One Stop Shop.

Offer continuous support.

### Local Services

#### One Stop Shop:

The Medway One Stop Shop is a drop-in service for any victim of domestic abuse to gain support and advice held every Tuesday, 9.30-11.30am at The Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham. No appointments are necessary.

#### Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors:

These are domestic abuse specialists who work with victims to help them to increase their safety by providing advocacy and advice. They will also be the 'voice' of the victim at MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference).

## Medway Domestic Abuse Service

Medway Domestic Abuse Service (MDAS) is a specialist domestic abuse service for Medway that recognises that the damage and problems caused by domestic abuse go beyond the abuse itself.

Medway Domestic Abuse Service is provided by Choices Domestic Abuse Service in partnership with Medway Council, Kent Police, Victim Support, Health, Housing, Early Help, Specialist Children's Services and a range of other services.

The core team is made up of trained and qualified domestic abuse and housing specialists who will work with you whatever your situation – whether you're in fear for your life, or only starting to recognise that something isn't right in a relationship; whether you're ready to leave an abusive partner or family member today, one day, or wish to remain in your own home.

You will be assigned a domestic abuse practitioner who will remain with you throughout your journey.

You can call the free helpline on...

# 0800 917 9948

If you are in a dangerous situation and you fear for your immediate safety, you should phone the police on **999**. In a non-emergency phone **101**.