

The aim of this scheme is to give parents, carers, guardians and other interested parties a more formal mechanism for requesting information about an individual who has contact with their child or a child close to them if they are concerned that the individual is a child sexual offender.

Around a quarter of child sexual offences are carried out by strangers. The majority of child sexual offenders are known to their victims. They are often someone who has some form of access to a child which is why this scheme can help protect children from harm.

The police already disclose information about registered sex offenders and violent offenders in a controlled way to a variety of people, including head teachers, leisure centre managers, employers, landlords and parents. The disclosure scheme is an additional tool that the police can use to keep children safe.

If you want more support about Sarah's Law or general support the following helplines may be useful.

- Stop It Now (0808 1000 900)
- NSPCC Child Protection Helpline (0808 800 5000)
- Parent's Protect (0808 1000 900)
- Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (0808 802 9999)

Alternatively, visit the webpage for your local police force or drop in to a local police station for more information about Sarah's Law.

Threshold DAS
32 Station Road
Llanelli,
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SARAH'S LAW

"Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme"



Threshold

 DAS

A safe place for anyone affected by domestic abuse.

WHAT IS SARAH'S LAW

HOW TO USE

SARAH'S LAW

In 2000, 8-year old Sarah Payne was abducted and murdered from her grandparent's home in Kingston Gorse by a known sex-offender.

Following her death, Sarah's parents, backed by national newspapers, tirelessly campaigned for the laws to be changed to allow parents to find out if child sex-offenders lived in their area.

Originally piloted in four police areas in 2008, Sarah's Law was rolled out across all 43 police areas in August 2010 and is in place across England and Wales, with a similar scheme in Scotland ("Keeping Children Safe").

Between the law's launch in August 2010 and December 2013 around 5000 requests have been made using Sarah's Law in England alone, with more than 700 paedophiles being identified.

If you are worried about your child then a Sarah's Law application may be beneficial.

1. To make a Sarah's Law application you must contact the police directly via visiting a police station,, phoning the non-emergency number for police or by speaking to a police officer on the street. This whole application can take up-to 45 days.
2. After contacting the police you will be asked to fill in a form giving details about why you want to access this information and whether the individual in question has unsupervised contact with the child/children concerned about. You will also be required to give your details. Initial checks will be ran at this point.
3. Depending on these initial checks, the police may request a face-to-face meeting. This is to establish further details concerning the application. At this stage proof of identity will be required as well as documentation to show your relationship with the child in question.
4. Following this a multi-agency meeting will be held to consider the disclosure. This will decide if the disclosure is lawful, necessary and proportionate

5. After this meeting it will be decided whether information will be disclosed.

If your application is successful the police will make a disclosure to you in person. Before disclosing this information the police will ask you to sign some paperwork confirming that you understand the confidentiality of the information being provided. They will only give information to the adult considered most able to protect the child.

The information provided must not be shared with anyone else, and any sharing would be a breach of confidentiality unless permission has been given by the police.

Should you unlawfully share this confidential information the police may take legal action against you.

If the person in question has no criminal history relating to child sexual abuse but you are still worried about your child's safety then the police will provide you with some information and guidance on keeping them safe.