

A guide to Sarah's Law

Is Sarah's Law a legislation?

No, Sarah's Law is a child sex offender disclosure scheme that was rolled out across England and Wales in April 2011 after a campaign was launched to adopt the American Megan's Law into the UK system. This scheme allows people to ask the police to check if those who have contact with children pose a sexual risk to those children.

How does Sarah's Law work?

If someone is worried about an individual who has access to a child, they can either go into their local police station or call 101 and request a check be performed under Sarah's Law.

Please note that just because an individual requests a check under this scheme it does not mean they will receive any disclosure.

The police will only disclose pertinent information regarding sexual offences and or other offences that may put a child at risk to the best placed person to protect the child. This will usually be a parent, guardian or carer and the information will only be disclosed if it is lawful, proportionate and necessary to do so in the best interest of protecting the child or children from harm.

The police aim to conduct checks within a 24 hour period of a request or report being made to ensure the safety of the child or children involved.

Will the subject of the check be informed?

The subject of the check will only be informed if a disclosure is going to take place, however they will not be informed of who raised the query.