

# 7 Minute Brief: Sarah's Law (Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme - CSODS)

**What is Sarah's Law?** The Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme lets you formally ask the police whether someone who has contact with a child or children:

- has a record for child sexual (paedophile) offences
- poses a risk to the child or children for some other reason.

It is not a law, but is sometimes called 'Sarah's Law'. It gives guidance on how you can ask police to use existing powers to share information about sex offenders.

**Why use Sarah's Law?** If you are worried about someone's behaviour towards a child, or something you have seen, heard or been told you can use Sarah's Law to find out if that person is a risk.

You must apply for information about a specific person and a specific child or children they spend time with. You cannot apply for general information about child sex offenders.

## Further information:

[Sarah's Law \(Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme\) | Wiltshire Police](#)  
[What Is Sarah's Law? Why The Scheme Was Started And How It Works | Scoop News | Sky News](#)  
[Clare's Law - Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme \(DVDS\) - 7-minute brief - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)



## Who can apply?

Anyone who is worried about someone's behaviour towards a child can apply, not just a child's parent. This includes people like a grandparent, neighbour or friend.

No matter who makes the application, if there is information that needs to be shared, it will be shared with the person who is able to use the information to keep the child safe. This might not be the person who made the application. It might be someone else, (like the child's parents).

**What can you do?** Share this information with colleagues and families you work with/in contact with.

*'This does not replace existing child protection arrangements and if partners have concerns then they should follow their own agencies procedures'*

**What happens next?** After you apply for information under Sarah's Law police will:

- make some checks within 24 hours and action will be taken straight away if they believe a child is in immediate danger
- decide if the request falls under Sarah's Law or not and make contact with you to explain this
- carry out detailed checks and a full assessment of all the information to decide whether there is any information to share with you or anyone else.

## How to apply?

A member of the public can make a disclosure request

- **Online:** [Ask the police for information about child sexual offences | Wiltshire Police](#)
- Call: 101
- Go to the local police station

You will need to provide your contact details, the details of the person and child(ren) you are concerned about and why you are concerned.