

1 What is Sarah's Law?

The Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (CSODS) 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's not a law, but it is sometimes called 'Sarah's Law' as it was developed by the Home Office, working together with the mother of Sarah Payne, to help safeguard children against child sex offenders. It gives guidance on how you can ask us to use our existing police powers to share information about sex offenders.

If you're worried about someone's behaviour towards a child, or something you've 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.



Sarah's Law Disclosure

2 Who can apply?

Anyone who is worried about someone's behaviour towards a child can apply, not just a child's parents. 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).



**Are you worried about someone?
Don't sit in silence!**

Please contact Family Connect on 01952 385385 or in an emergency call 999.

5 What we need our Partner Agencies to do?

Although there will be a wider communications campaign in the future we really need you to promote this with the members of public you come in contact with

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

4 What happens next?

After you apply for information under Sarah's Law the 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.

3 How can a member of the public make a disclosure request?

Contact the police via:

- [applying online](#)
- calling 101
- visiting your [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.