

## Clare's Law And How Envision plans to Help

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*Christa Daku, Executive Director of Envision Counseling and Support Centre.*

Saskatchewan has become the first province to introduce Clare's Law and is in the process of passing the law. Christa Daku the Executive Director for Envision explains, "It's a very positive move for the Provincial Government in regards to advocating for domestic victims and a preventative measure. Having this law in place will allow individuals to seek support from the police and gain some knowledge about the possibilities of domestic violence. If there's a history of convicted offences with the partner who is displaying red flags as we call it in the counselling industry, it is important for somebody to be able to access information in regards to that. On a need to know basis as they've stated in the law, our clients can go down and seek that information through the police services. If there's a history of convictions with their partner and they are displaying the "red flags" in regards to domestic violence."

"There are still risk factors involved because only convicted offenders will show up on that list. A lot of times people are charged and the charges are stayed by the justice system so, therefore, there is no conviction. It is really important for people to seek support with our interpersonal violence and abuse program, that way we can provide some assistance and advocacy moving forward."

"There are always indicators in a relationship where there is a possibility of violence escalating, One of those is isolation and another one is possessiveness. Those are usually the early signs if someone is trying to isolate an individual by keeping them away from his or her family and the support in his or her life, then that is a red flag and is something to pay attention to. We have all kinds of information in regards to indicators and the risk factors for a relationship potentially becoming a violent situation. It's important to remember that not all domestic violent relationships are violent emotional and verbal abuse is 80% of our clientele, but often times when the individual starts to set boundaries and stand up for themselves things turn to escalation and the cycle get a little bit more serious. Any individual that is just not feeling that their relationship is good for them or positive or they are having questions about it they can definitely reach out for some support on our website or call to see a counsellor."

Clare's Law has had its first reading and still has it 2nd and 3rd reading to go through before it becomes a law.