

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Easy Read



Words which may be difficult to understand are explained at the end of this easy read.



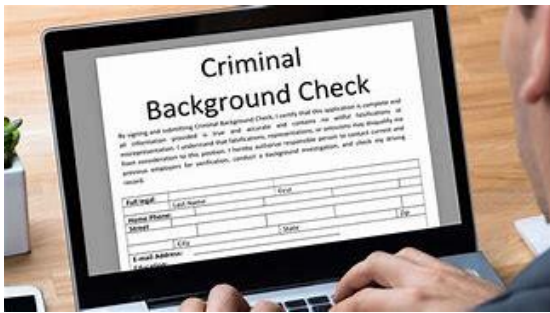
A new law called the Disclosure Scotland Act (2020) begins on the 1st April 2025



People who receive a direct payment from Fife Council to employ a Personal Assistant (PA) need to know about this.

| April 2025 | | | | | | |
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From 1st April, the new law says that all PAs must have a PVG check.



A PVG check looks at the PAs background and will carry out checks to find out if they have committed any crimes.



If a PA refuses to have a PVG check, they are breaking the law, and they can't work with vulnerable people.



This check is very important as it makes sure that people with disabilities, children and the elderly are safe from harm.



Family members, neighbours or friends who do not get paid to help someone they know, will not need a PVG check.



People who volunteer for an organisation will need a PVG check.



If a PA has already had a PVG check and can show their PVG certificate, they do not need to do anything.



If the PA decides to support someone else or gets a new job with an organisation, they will need to update their PVG.



It costs **£59** for a new PVG check and **£18** for an update.



It should take about 2 weeks for a PVG check to come through.



The new law does not say who should pay for the PVG check.



If you have a PA, you can add your name and address to the PVG application form and sign it to make sure you are sent a copy of the PVG check.



The PVG check form can be found on this website

<https://www.disclosure.gov.scot/>



If you need help with this please speak to a relative, friend, advocate or social worker or contact one of the following organisations.



Visit the Disclosure Scotland website
<https://www.disclosure.gov.scot/>



Email Disclosure Scotland on
disclosureact@disclosurescotland.gov.uk



Telephone Disclosure Scotland on
0300 020 0040



Email SDS Options Fife for help on
enquiries@dphsfife.org.uk



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LYNNE GARVEY Director of Health and Social Care



Difficult words and what they mean

| Word | Meaning |
|--|--|
| Disclosure Scotland | A department of the Scottish Government who carry out PVG checks |
| Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme | Work done by Disclosure Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government. |
| Disclosure Scotland Act | One of many laws in Scotland which are used to keep people safe. |
| Personal Assistant (PA) | People who get direct payments can employ and pay some to care for them. This person is called a Personal Assistant or PA. |
| Vulnerable Person | People who need help to do things or someone to stand up for them. This might be an older person, a child or someone with a disability. |
| PVG check | A form used to do a criminal record check to find out if someone is safe to work with vulnerable people. |
| Volunteer | Someone gives their time and skills to help without being paid. |
| SDS Options Fife | An organisation who Fife Council pay to provide self-directed support information and advice to people in Fife who have chosen a direct payment to arrange their care and support. |

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