

MARAC

MARAC

Multi Agency
Risk
Assessment
Conference

A Practitioner's
Guide

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)?

The main aim of the MARAC is to reduce the risk of serious harm or homicide for a victim and to increase the safety, health and wellbeing of victims, both adults and any children. In a MARAC local agencies will meet to discuss the highest risk victims of domestic abuse in their area. Information about the risks faced by those victims, the actions needed to ensure safety, and the resources available locally are shared and used to create a risk management plan involving all agencies.

What is the key element of MARAC?

The key element of MARAC is the domestic abuse risk assessment which will have been carried out by a practitioner from any agency that supports people affected by domestic violence. A consistent and nationally evaluated risk assessment tool is used, developed through analysis of previous domestic Homicides.

The risk assessment has three main objectives:

1. To gather detailed and relevant information from victims, which could be shared with other agencies if the level of risk is high or becomes high
2. To identify those that need more intensive support and multi agency action planning
3. To make agencies aware of the risk posed by the most dangerous offenders

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does a representative from my agency attend?

Matching the information you have about risks to a client with that known by other agencies will help to ensure that the action plan drawn up by the MARAC is more likely to succeed. Your representative will also be best placed to know what actions you can offer within the safety plan and what might need to be put in place to address client and staff safety.

Which cases are discussed?

The highest risk cases of domestic violence are discussed in the MARAC. A Practitioner from any agency using an evaluated risk assessment tool will have identified the risks.

What information should my agency bring?

The representative from your agency should bring relevant and basic details on the client and the services they require that might relate to the domestic violence and abuse. This could include names; dates of birth; dates of attendances at your agency; summary of injuries sustained; whether domestic violence was disclosed and what relevant services have been accessed. This can highlight the severity of abuse to other agencies

Frequently Asked Questions

What can the MARAC do?

Actions proposed by your agency representative will frequently focus on ensuring that the response to the client's situation reflects the fact that they are a high risk victim of domestic violence. Further incidents may prompt an enquiry into their cause and a possible referral to the appropriate person/agency.

It would be important to see the client alone at appointments and where possible, highlight files to show that the case has been referred to MARAC. The MARAC ensures that a risk management strategy and action plan is in place and that a coordinated approach is taken.

What are the legal grounds for sharing information?

Disclosures at MARACS are made under the Data Protection Act, the Human Rights Act and Caldicott Guidelines. Relevant information can be shared when it is necessary to prevent crime, protect health and/or safety of the victim and/or the rights and freedoms of those who are victims of violence and/or their children. It must be proportionate to the level of risk of harm to a named individual or known households.

Everybody at the MARAC must sign a confidentiality agreement before the meeting begins

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Referral Process?

There is a standard MARAC referral form which requests relevant information.

Step 1 Complete a MARAC referral form. You can obtain the form from your MARAC representative within your agency, or from the MARAC coordinator (contact details on back of leaflet).

Step 2 Ideally obtain consent from your client. If you are unable to do so please continue with the referral. We are allowed to discuss referrals without the victims consent in potentially dangerous situations.

Step 3 Either speak to your representative or contact the MARAC Coordinator who will advise you on how to refer the case.

Step 4 The referral is distributed to all the agencies prior to the MARAC. Each agency then has the obligation to gather all their information in relation to the referral and then bring it to the next MARAC. At the meeting information is then shared and a risk plan is agreed so that the victim and their children remain safe and are supported.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the victim need to know they are being discussed at MARAC?

If you are the referring agency, it is good practice to discuss the referral with the victim if it is safe to do so. You will need to use your professional judgement to decide whether it is safe.

The MARAC follows a consent-based approach.

If consent is refused this may be overruled (Crime & Disorder Act 1998, S115).

If you are not the referring agency, you should check with the referring agency before contacting your client to gather relevant information to ensure it is safe to do so.

What about the Common Assessment Framework, Child in Need and Child Protection and Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults?

The MARAC process does not replace the procedures for dealing with concerns about a child or a vulnerable adult. Those protocols must always be followed, but in high-risk cases of domestic violence you may need to follow both and make two referrals

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the perpetrator informed of the meeting and the safety plans?

No. It would defeat the purpose of the MARAC if the perpetrator was informed about the safety plan. The perpetrator may become aware of the meeting taking place but should not be informed of the safety plan

Participants should take extraordinary care not to inadvertently inform the perpetrator of any element of the safety plan.

What happens after a MARAC?

After a MARAC, practitioners in regular contact with the victim will contact them to let them know about the safety plan, safety measures and support each agency is offering.

All MARAC contacts must confirm when their agency actions have been completed.

MARAC Contacts

How do I find out who my agency MARAC contacts are?

These will change over time. The MARACS are administered by the Domestic Violence Accommodation Project and an up-to-date list of MARAC agency representatives can be requested from the following contacts:

MARAC Coordinator:

E-mail: marac@eastriding.gov.uk

Telephone No: 01482 396356

DVAP Risk Assessor:

E-mail: marac@eastriding.gov.uk

Telephone No: 01482 391021



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