

MARAC

What is a MARAC?

A Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference – It has the safety of **High Risk victims of domestic abuse as its focus.**

Criteria for Referral - Victims must be aged 16 or over and in or have been in an intimate or interfamilial relationship.

- High Risk (DASH)
- Escalation
- Professional Judgement
- Repeat Victimisation

Visible High Risk -

The DASH risk identification checklist is being used. 14 ticks in the yes box will meet the MARAC referral criteria.

Professional Judgement -

If an agency has serious concerns about a victim's situation they should refer to MARAC. There will be occasions where the particular context of a case gives rise to serious concerns even if the victim has been unable to disclose the information that might highlight their risk more clearly. This could reflect one event or extreme levels of fear, cultural barriers to disclosure, immigration issues or language barriers particularly in cases of 'honour'- based violence. This judgment should be based on the professionals experience and/or the victims' perception of risk even if they do not meet the above stated criteria. Any member of any agency should refer if they assess that in their professional judgment there is potentially serious risk of harm.

Escalation -

Police call outs to the victim as a result of domestic violence in the past twelve months. This criterion can be used to identify cases where there is a clear escalation and related increase in risk to any party. Escalation will be used as an identifier alongside professional judgement, rather than refer solely on a predetermined number of calls.

Repeat Cases -

Repeat referrals return to MARAC when any one of the following types of behaviour has taken place within 12 months of the last referral to MARAC -

- 1) Violence or threats of violence to the victim
- 2) Where there is a pattern of stalking or harassment
- 3) Rape or sexual abuse is disclosed
- 4) Psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse

How to Complete the MARAC Referral Form – Administration – Instructions Amended due to COVID 19

- Click on the shaded area of the form, this will allow you to annotate boxes accordingly.
- Both Victim and perpetrators details are required to be completed.
- Address / Telephone contact details are required also are any contact numbers safe for professionals to call on?
- Children's details to be completed as fully as possible if you have them.
- You need to complete the Risk Assessment Factor (annotate why the case was referred in) - Professional Judgement, - Visible high risk (14 ticks on DASH) and or Potential Escalation.
- Reason for Referral / Additional Information – This should have an explanation as to why you have referred into MARAC and consider this to be a high risk case. This area just needs to be a brief paragraph or bullet points.
- Description of Incident that initiated the referral to MARAC, brief history of the DA if no particular incident.
An Example of elements could be: Strangulation, Coercive controlling behaviour, physical, sexual, financial / verbal abuse. Patient's disclosure / demeanour / indications of abuse.
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- IDVA – Please annotate if this support is required.
IDVA stands for Independent Domestic Violence Advisor – these are specially trained Domestic Abuse Advisors from Women's Aid, who are independent from the Police. They work with high risk victims of domestic abuse to assist with safety planning, safeguarding, assistance with obtaining orders to protect victims, housing, financial planning. They can discuss and advise around options for refuge, and how to minimise risk. If a victim is aware of the referral they may wish to engage with IDVA services. IDVA's can meet victims in a safe location to discuss their services if required. Women's Aid offer a lot of support and advice via their helpline also, which victims can call directly if so wished on 0800 908 3331 or via their website. A referral into MARAC does not need to be made in order for victims to access Women's Aid support; this can be done directly by calling the helpline.
- The form does not need to be signed, just annotated with consent if it is given by the victim.
- Save the MARAC Referral form in Word Format Only.
- If you have consent email the completed MARAC Referral Form to:

worcestershiremarac@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

No Consent?

If no consent is given, or victim is unaware of the referral into MARAC you will also need to complete an Information Sharing Without Notifying the Victim Form and send it in with your MARAC Referral Form. The case will not be able to be discussed without this form if there is no consent.

- Once your referral has been received and accepted for discussion at MARAC you will receive a confirmation email.
- Please liaise with your representative for your agency who attends MARAC, so that they are fully aware of your referral as they will need to attend the MARAC Meeting to present the Case.

For Health guidance can be sought from:

- Kate Birch (Acute) – katebirch@nhs.net
 - Elizabeth Wadley (Trust) – elizabethwadley@nhs.net
 - Sarah Dempsey (CCG) - sarah.dempsey3@nhs.net
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- Cases are listed in 15 minute time slots and discussed in strict order.
 - Please be advised that if no one attends to present the case, the case may not be discussed.

Attached:

- MARAC Referral Form
- Information Sharing Without Notifying the Victim Form
- DASH Form – Should you ever need one

Useful Websites:

West Mercia Women's Aid – Information on support and advice.

Worcestershire Forum for Domestic Abuse – Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – This gives all sorts of information around support, and explanations of DVPO / DVPN / VEV, Clares Law – really useful point of reference.