



MARAC Referral Form – Guidance for Completing

The below FAQ's are designed to assist in the completion of the referral, and in a greater understanding of the MARAC process.

For more information, please go to:

<http://www.safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-marac-meetings/resources-people-referring>

1. WHAT IS A MARAC?

This is a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference. Information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAS), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

The MARAC does not take away your responsibility to ensure the victim is appropriately safeguarded, but it does enable all information to be shared between those agencies present in order that options can be discussed for increasing the safety of the victim as a co-ordinated approach.

The victim does not attend the meeting, but is represented by the IDVA. It is important that the victim's views are sought, and their consent is obtained. However, if there is no consent, information can still be shared through the MARAC if the '**Information Sharing Without Consent**' form is completed.

2. WHEN SHOULD I MAKE A REFERRAL?

There are a number of different reasons for referring a case into MARAC. These are included on the form, and are:

Visible high risk

This is as per the definition used by Gwent Police, taken in conjunction with the number of ticks on the DASH checklist. Where there are 14 or more 'yes' answers on the DASH, this could also warrant a high risk grading.

Professional judgement

Regardless of definitions or 'yes' answers on the DASH, if a professional has serious concerns about a victim's situation, they should refer the case into MARAC.

There will be occasions where the particular context of a case gives rise to a serious concern even if the victim has been unable to disclose the information that might highlight their risk more clearly. This could reflect extreme levels of fear, cultural barriers to disclosure, immigration issues or language barriers, particularly in cases of honour based violence.

This judgement would be based on the professional's experience and / or the victim's perception of their risk even if they do not meet the criteria of visible high risk or potential escalation

Potential escalation / Repeat Cases

The number of police call outs to the victim as a result of domestic violence over a rolling 12 month period.

If there are 5 or more incidents reported during this rolling 12 month period, and / or 3 or more crimes, then a referral is required.

This criteria can be used to identify cases where there is not a positive identification of a majority of the risk factors on the list, but where the abuse appears to be escalating and where it is appropriate to assess the situation more fully by sharing information at MARAC.

3. WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

There are specific questions on the MARAC referral form that will prompt you to provide all the necessary information.

All questions are relevant so please ensure everything is completed

You will need to add a short summary of the reason for the referral, which should be a summary of the incident and the outcome. Please do not cut and paste an MG5 – this information needs to be to the point in order to run an effective MARAC (there can be up to 20 cases discussed in a day, and so each case is only afforded 10 to 15 minutes)

4. DO I NEED THE CONSENT OF THE VICTIM?

Ideally, yes.

However, if there is no consent, then you will be required to complete the 'Information Sharing Without Consent' form in order to ensure you are sharing information legally
The perpetrator of the abuse should not be informed of the MARAC referral

5. WHAT HAPPENS WITH MY REFERRAL FORM?

This is to be emailed to marac@gwent.pnn.police.uk. The administrators will process the referral and ensure it is passed onto the IDVA who will make contact with the victim. It will also be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

6. WHAT HAPPENS AT THE MARAC MEETING?

Each case to be discussed at MARAC is afforded 10 - 15 minutes.

There are 8 core agencies that attend the MARAC (police, probation, health, children's services, housing practitioners, IDVA's, substance misuse services, and mental health).

As the referrer, should you recognise that attendance by another agency would be beneficial (such as adult services, or Army Welfare) then please note this on your referral so invites can be sent.

The MARAC is managed by a Chairperson who can either be the DI attending, or a representative from another agency.

Agencies at the MARAC share the information they hold on the individuals concerned with a view to identifying any actions that can be addressed in order to enhance the safeguarding of the victim (such as re-locating them / drug and alcohol services for the offender / counselling services, etc)

7. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE MARAC MEETING?

MARAC representatives are expected to pro-actively volunteer actions on behalf of their agency to mitigate the risks and increase safety.

These actions are recorded in the minutes which will then be added to the Niche record.

Any actions for Police will either be allocated by the MARAC administrator or the DI representing Gwent Police.

The IDVA will feed back any information from the MARAC to the victim, and continue to work with them for a period of time to continue to address safeguarding.