

## What happens after a MARAC?

Practitioners in regular contact with the survivor/victim, usually the IDVA, will let them know about the safety plan, safety measures and the support each agency is offering. The safety plan will be about actions to support the survivor/victim and any children and to reduce the risk from the perpetrator.

## What if the domestic violence or abuse continues?

If a victim whose case has already been considered at a MARAC later reports an incident to any agency, that agency must refer the case back to the MARAC Coordinator as a repeat case. This allows the MARAC to re-design the safety plan, taking the new information into account.

To download a MARAC referral form and risk assessment or for further information about MARAC

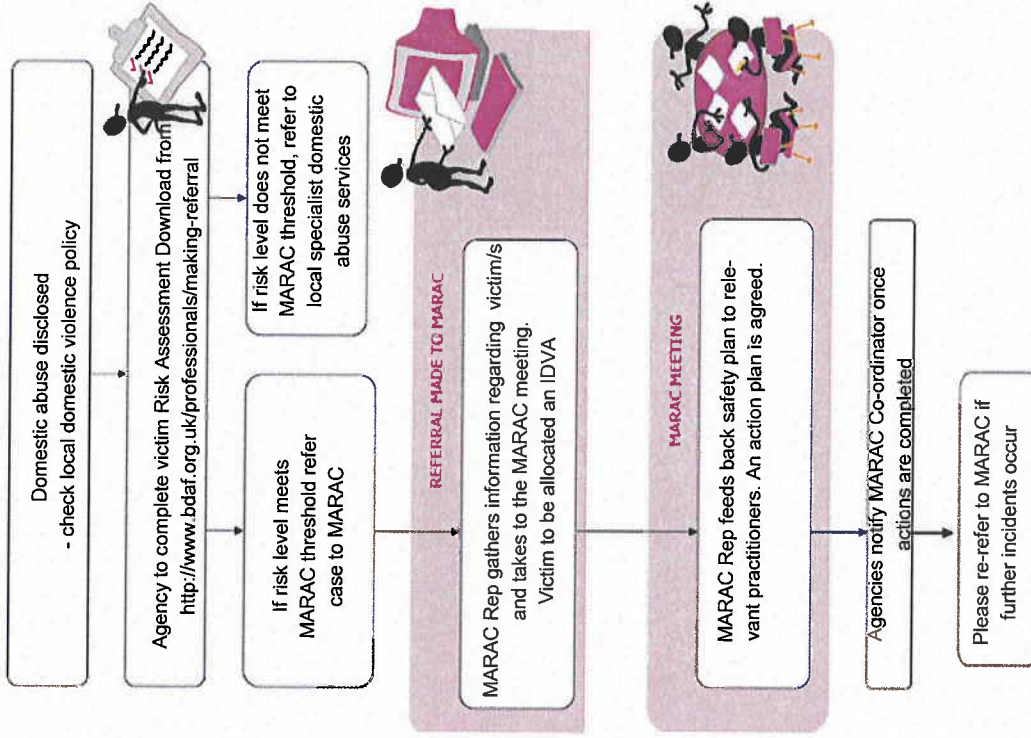
<http://www.bdaf.org.uk/professionals/making-referral>

or contact

**Michelle Cunningham**  
**Bristol MARAC Coordinator**

**michelle.cunningham@**  
**avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk.**  
**0117 9454322**  
**or Fax 0117 9454344**

## MARAC Process Flowchart



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## Leaflet for Professionals

Protecting high-risk survivors/victims of domestic violence and abuse

## Domestic Violence

# MARAC



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### **What is a MARAC?**

MARAC stands for Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference and is a meeting whose purpose is to make safety plans for high risk survivors/victims of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) and reduce the risks they face.

### **Why MARAC?**

It is estimated that 10% of all DVA cases can be described as high risk. Where MARACs have been independently evaluated they have been shown to reduce murders and serious risks from DVA in a significant number of cases.

### **How does someone get referred to MARAC?**

Any agency can make a referral, providing they have signed the Bristol information exchange protocol. The practitioner must complete a risk assessment form, preferably with the survivor/victim, and send it with a referral form to the MARAC Coordinator. Because sensitive personal information can get lost in an ordinary email, this **MUST ONLY** be sent by secure email, fax or recorded delivery.

### **What happens when the referral has been made to the MARAC?**

The victim will be referred to a specialist IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) who will represent the victim's views to the MARAC. The MARAC Coordinator sends the details of those con-

cerned by secure email to all agencies that have signed a confidentiality agreement, such as the police, health, social care, probation, housing, schools, DVA support agencies, drugs/alcohol agencies, and asks them to search their records for any relevant information to bring to the MARAC meeting. Other information that does not directly relate to the DVA or victims' safety from it should not be shared at the MARAC.

### **Does the survivor/victim have to give consent to this sharing of information?**

No, but safety planning will be more effective if s/he agrees to work with the IDVA. The referring agency should inform the survivor/victim in advance that information will be shared, to check this does not put them at greater risk, and encourage them to engage with the IDVA involved. Agencies have to be careful how they tell the victim, to avoid warning the perpetrator of what is happening, which may put the victim at greater risk. In law, if a child needs protecting or an adult is at risk of serious physical injury or death, agencies must share information to prevent that harm, as this is deemed to be "in the public interest". Agencies can also share information under Human Rights Act to protect the health and safety of victims.

### **What happens at the MARAC meeting?**

A senior manager or a nominated person from each agency attends, sometimes at a specific time, to share any information relating to DVA and to make a note of anything new they learn to help them to safety plan within their agency for their client. Information brought to MARAC could include names, dates of birth, summary of events and/or injuries, including emotional/psychological abuse or intimidation and impact, and what relevant services have been accessed. This usually results in a much broader picture of what is going on for those victims, including any children involved. At MARAC a safety action plan is produced for each victim

### **Does the survivor/victim get invited to the MARAC meeting?**

No, cases are allocated a 10 minute time slot for discussion therefore it would not be possible in practical terms for survivors to be present without breaching their confidentiality.

### **What if the case does not meet MARAC threshold level?**

If a victim does not meet the MARAC threshold, please continue to offer them understanding and support whilst they are your client and use the following link to refer to a specialist DVA support agency if appropriate. ([www.bdaf.org.uk/help-and-support/victims-and-survivors](http://www.bdaf.org.uk/help-and-support/victims-and-survivors))