

D&G MARAC: 7-Minute Briefing

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What is MARAC?

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference – MARAC - is a process established to respond to high-risk victims of domestic abuse who are at risk of **significant harm, including domestic homicide**.

The role of the MARAC is to share relevant information and to agree coordinated actions to be taken to **safeguard** the victim(s), to **manage** the source of **risk**, and to **increase the victim's safety**.

<https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource/s/MARAC%20FAQs%20General%20FINAL.pdf>

Where can I find out more?

On the [MARAC page](#) on the Public Protection Website you'll be able to download: The MARAC Operating and Information Sharing Protocols; a referral form, the DASH-RIC, and a MARAC Referral Pathway that will help you submit a referral. Please contact marac@dumgal.gov.uk for more information.

What happens at MARAC?

MARAC combines up-to-date risk information with a comprehensive assessment of the victim's needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a domestic abuse case: victim, children and perpetrator. Appropriate actions are identified at the MARAC meeting and by using the knowledge and expertise of different agencies, the identified risks are reduced and/or managed in the most appropriate and effective way. After the meeting, any action points are shared with relevant practitioners by the MARAC representative e.g. to schools/ nurseries.

Aims of MARAC

- To increase the safety, health and wellbeing of domestic abuse victims by facilitating, monitoring and evaluating effective information sharing.
- To make links with all other safeguarding processes.
- To develop a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm.
- To reduce the risk of repeat victimisation.
- To improve agency accountability.

MARAC Membership

MARAC in Dumfries and Galloway allows statutory and voluntary agencies to give a consistent and structured response to managing the risk to victims. Dumfries and Galloway MARAC membership includes:

Police Scotland; Dumfriesshire and Stewartry Women's Aid; Wigtownshire Women's Aid; D&G Rape Crisis; ASSIST, NHS D&G; Scottish Prison Service; COPFS; Social Work; Education; Housing; Victim Support and Wheatley Group.

Who can refer to MARAC?

Victims can be referred to MARAC by **any agency / organisation or professional** who identifies a victim as high-risk. Risk is assessed using the [DASH Risk Assessment Tool](#) (DASH-RIC) developed by [SafeLives](#).

Domestic abuse victims can be referred to MARAC on the following bases:

- **Identified High-risk** – when the DASH-RIC score is 14 or higher.
- **Professional Judgement** – when the DASH-RIC score is lower than 14 (or in the absence of DASH-RIC) but the professional has identified that the victim is at high risk by using all the information at their disposal.
- **Escalation** – when abuse appears to be escalating; usually 3 or more Police callouts in the past 12 months.
- **Repeat** – where the same victim and perpetrator were referred to any MARAC within the last 12 months and a new incident takes place or further risk has been identified.

Does the victim have to consent to the referral?

No, consent is **not required** to refer a victim to MARAC.

Best practice is that the professional who is making the referral to MARAC has **informed the victim** of this and advised them that an **IDAA** (Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate) will be in contact. There may be times that this is not possible, and the IDAA will then explain the process when they make contact. There may also be times that it is not safe to advise the victim of the MARAC. This would only be in exceptional circumstances and the reasons clearly outlined. In such cases, no contact will be made by the IDAA.



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