

## Who will be at the MARAC Meeting?

The MARAC meeting is chaired by the Detective Inspector of the police safeguarding unit and professionals from a variety of agencies attend the meeting to share information, including:

- Police officers
- Housing officers
- Schools/school health nurses
- Probation officers
- Health visitors/midwives/nurses
- GP's
- Local hospital/A&E
- Voluntary Sector support workers
- Social workers
- Youth offending officers
- Drug and alcohol workers
- Mental health workers
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)

## What actions arise from MARAC?

After each case has been presented by the referring agency and other agencies have shared information on the case, an action plan is compiled. Some of the actions that arise as a result of a MARAC are\*:

- specialist support agencies to make contact with the victim to offer support
- referrals being made to increase security at the victims property e.g. Bobby Van
- referrals to other agencies for specialist support e.g. drug and alcohol support
- referrals to housing support to discuss options for housing and house moves
- actions taken against the offender to ensure the victim's safety e.g. injunctions preventing the offender going to the victims house
- support for children and young people.

\*Note: these are examples; MARAC can offer many different actions dependent on each case, some of which are not advertised publicly for safety reasons.

The IDVA, or other designated MARAC representative will update you on the outcome of MARAC and the actions that will be taken to increase your safety and your family's safety.

## Confidentiality

All information shared and stored at the MARAC and any actions arising will be kept confidential and comply with the Data Protection Act 1998.

All agencies who attend the MARAC will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

For further information about South Gloucestershire MARAC please call **Avon and Somerset Constabulary on 101**

**If you need this information in another format, please contact: 01454 868009**

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**A guide to South Gloucestershire domestic abuse**

# Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

The South Gloucestershire Partnership Against Domestic Abuse is coordinated and funded by South Gloucestershire Council to improve the lives of all South Gloucestershire Residents.



[www.southglos.gov.uk](http://www.southglos.gov.uk)

  
**South Gloucestershire Council**

## What is a MARAC?

### MARAC stands for Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference.

The MARAC is a meeting of professionals from many agencies who share information and pull together an action plan to protect victims and their families.

MARAC meetings are currently held monthly to discuss the highest risk cases of domestic violence and abuse happening at that time.

## What is MARAC For?

MARAC meetings are held to protect high risk victims of domestic violence and abuse and their families by:

- sharing information to increase the safety, health and well being of victims and their children
- constructing and implementing a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm
- reducing repeat victimisation
- improving agency accountability
- improving support for staff involved in high risk domestic abuse cases
- to determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community.

## Why is my case going to a MARAC?

All professionals in South Gloucestershire are encouraged to identify the signs of domestic violence and abuse and ensure they take appropriate action to make you and your family safe. As part of this process the professional you

are working with will need to assess the risks to you and your family. This is done through the use of the national DASH Risk assessment\*.

The DASH risk assessment is a list of simple questions that help the professional understand the situation, determine the risks and take appropriate action.

If the risk assessment indicates that you are at high risk of serious harm, you will be referred to the MARAC.

High risk is determined in one of the following ways:

- **visible high risk:** many issues of abuse are identified such as physical violence, emotional, financial, psychological abuse
- **potential escalation:** it is clear that the situation could become much worse
- **professional judgement:** the professional involved has serious concerns for the victim's safety
- **victim perception:** the victim has serious concerns for their own safety.

Once a risk assessment has been completed and it has been determined that the risk is high, a referral in to the MARAC will be made by the professional you are working with.

*\*Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH) risk identification checklist.*

## Do I need to consent to the referral?

The professional you are working with will seek your consent for a referral to be made in to the MARAC. This is very important, as the MARAC will be more successful in protecting you and your family if you are supporting the process.

If however, you choose not to consent to the MARAC referral, a referral will be made without your consent.

Referring without your consent will be based on the high risk outcome of the risk assessment and the professional involved being suitably concerned about your safety and your family's safety. In this situation the professional will wish to share information with other agencies to ensure your protection.

If the risks to your safety are extremely serious, a referral may be made to the MARAC without discussing consent with you. In this circumstance it is understood that discussing the MARAC with you may increase the risk to you.

## How are my views represented?

If you have been informed that your case will be talked about at a MARAC, you have the opportunity to contribute and express your views and wishes. This could be done via the professional you have been working with, or with a professional involved in the MARAC process, if you feel happy to talk to them.

Alternatively you can receive support from an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA). The IDVA can provide you with intensive support both emotionally and practically. The professional you are engaged with can refer you to an IDVA with your consent, or you can contact the IDVA service yourself on the following number:

**Next Link:** 0800 4700 280  
enquiries.southglos@nextlinkhousing.co.uk  
www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk/southglos

Next Link provides support services for women, men and children in South Gloucestershire who are, or have been victims of domestic abuse. Their services include telephone help and advice, safe house accommodation, community outreach services and group programmes.

Referrals can be made by telephone, email or through the Next Link website. At the first point of contact there is a triage advice service, and all victims asking for support are offered a relevant service that meets their needs and responds to their immediate safety risks. Callers wanting advice and guidance can access our accredited advice service.