

Confidentiality and keeping your information safe

Everything discussed at MARAC is confidential and members from all organisations must sign a confidentiality agreement. Where child protection concerns have been identified, these will be shared with appropriate authorities in the usual way.

What if I don't want to be referred to MARAC?

If you don't want your case referred to MARAC, the reasons for your refusal will be taken to MARAC. We consider the potential risk is so high that the agencies will need to consider what they can do to try and reduce the risk. You will have a choice about whether you take part in any actions to increase your safety.

Notes

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What happens next?

You will be updated after the MARAC on the practical actions that are going to be undertaken and the likely timescale for them happening. The responsibility for completing the actions in your action plan sits with the relevant agencies. Once all the actions on your plan have been completed, your case will be removed from the MARAC, if no further risks are identified. If further risks are identified, then the plan will be reviewed by the MARAC. Your local Women's Aid group, DALO or Victim Support worker will let you know when your case is being removed from the MARAC.

Where can I go for support or further information?

If you want to discuss your case further, or seek support, you should contact your local Women's Aid group, Police Domestic Abuse Liaison Officer (DALO) or equivalent. You can also provide feedback to them about how the MARAC actions are working in practice. If you experience further incidents of Domestic Abuse, you should report this to your local Police Station.

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Highland Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

Domestic Abuse

Droch Dhìol san Dachaigh

Co-labhairt Measadh Cunnairt Ioma-bhuidhneach na Gàidhealtachd

The Highland Council PR12-3-F



How it works

What is the MARAC?

MARAC stands for Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference. It's a meeting where representatives from a number of organisations in the Highlands talk about the safety, health and well being of people experiencing domestic abuse and draw up an action plan to help make them safer. The MARAC process is about reducing the risk of you being harmed.

Why are your circumstances being discussed?

People who have been identified as being at potential 'high risk' of current or future harm from domestic abuse are discussed at the MARAC. Each domestic abuse case that is reported is assessed to identify the level of risk. The risk factors considered include the nature of the abuse (eg emotional, physical, sexual), the previous behaviour or convictions of the perpetrator, threats and the involvement of drugs or alcohol. These are just some of the things that are considered.

You have been identified as at potential high risk, so a MARAC should help to address safety issues for you.

Who is involved?

A number of different organisations attend MARAC regularly.

Details of your main point(s) of contact have been inserted below:

Local Women's Aid Group (or equivalent, women only service)

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The Highland Council

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NHS Highland

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Northern Constabulary

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Victim Support

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Am I represented at the MARAC?

You will not personally attend the MARAC. Your local Women's Aid group, Police Domestic Abuse Liaison Officer (DALO) or Victim Support worker will represent your views, if you want them to. They will feed back to you after the meetings, so that you are aware of the outcomes. If you have a particular concern that you want to be discussed you can ask your Women's Aid or Victim Support worker, or your DALO to talk about this on your behalf.

What can you expect?

At the MARAC professionals will identify what they can do to help increase your safety. Your Victim Support worker, Women's Aid worker or equivalent will keep you updated.

Examples of actions the MARAC might take include:

- assisting in emergency housing transfers;
- asking a health visitor to check on your wellbeing through extra visits;
- ensuring schools do not allow your children to leave with anyone but you.