

WHEN TO MAKE A MARAC REFERRAL

You should make a MARAC referral if **at least one** of these four criteria is met:

1 Visible high risk (14 or more 'yes' answers on the DASH risk assessment)

2 Professional judgement

Professional judgment should be exercised at all times, particularly in cases where there is lack of information. You may be supporting a victim who is not able to fully disclose due to fear or other reasons. There may also be concerning factors such as risks posed by the perpetrator that you are aware of. This criterion allows you to use your discretion to make a referral where you have serious concerns about a victim's safety due to domestic abuse.

3 Potential escalation

Incidents should not just be seen in isolation, as this may result in patterns and risk being missed. When there are 4 domestic abuse incidents within a 12 month period then this criteria should be used. This can include 4 police call outs, 4 attendances to A&E, 4 calls for housing repairs as a result of domestic abuse.

4 Repeat referral

If you are aware of a further incident of domestic abuse occurring between the same victim and perpetrator within the 12 months following the case being discussed at MARAC then the case should be referred back to MARAC. A further incident suggests the current safety plan is not working and needs revisiting. The incident does not need to be criminal, nor reported to any other professional.

SafeLives 'MARAC Referral Criteria: FAQs' (2018)

MAKING A REFERRAL

WHO CAN REFER TO MARAC?

Any professional working with victims, children or perpetrators can refer to the MARAC. The referral should be made by the person who identified the risk. Please follow your organisation's internal guidance to refer into MARAC. If you are unsure please contact your strategic lead.

DO I NEED CONSENT TO REFER?

It is important that the victim is informed about the MARAC so that up-to-date information can be obtained to understand the true risk. However, there may be occasions where a victim does not want to be referred to MARAC or it is not safe to have that conversation with them. Consent is preferred but not essential, ultimately if lives are at risk then the sharing of relevant and proportionate information will outweigh this.

The perpetrator must never be informed of the referral as this can increase risk to the victim and the children.