

An **IDVA** is an independent Domestic Violence Advisor who is separate from other organisations, but works closely with them to put in place a safety plan to help reduce risk to victims and their children.

They are specially trained to support those at imminent risk of serious harm or death from the point of crisis.

They are proactive and aim to make positive differences to the lives of women and men experiencing domestic abuse.



## INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

# ADVISOR

Specially trained support  
for those at imminent risk



**LEARN  
MORE**

Advice can be given regarding safety planning, referring to services for added support, support through the criminal justice system and being the victim's voice at MARAC.

An IDVA would become involved when a professional has completed a DASH and referred you to MARAC; if IDVA support is needed then they will be in contact.

An IDVA will discuss with you:

- Your risk and what is currently in place and future options
- Safety planning advice
- What it is you want and what referrals to services can be completed
- Be a voice for you to services and help you act for yourself to make your own choices
- Treat you fairly irrespective of age, sexual orientation, religion, gender, ethnicity or disability.

## WHAT IS A MULTI-AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE (MARAC)?

A Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference is a meeting held fortnightly to share information regarding those who are experiencing domestic abuse that has been identified as high risk. The main aim of MARAC is to reduce the risk of serious harm or death and to increase the safety, health and wellbeing of those experiencing domestic abuse – adults and their children.

If a disclosure of domestic abuse is made to a professional, they will ask you a series of questions on a risk assessment, referred to as a DASH risk assessment.

Should the professional be concerned about the level of risk you are at and the nature of the abuse you are experiencing, they will discuss with you about referring you to MARAC.

If the professional feels that they need to refer you to MARAC, this will mean that they feel you are at imminent risk of serious harm or death. The professional will explain the process and ask if you would like support from an IDVA. The IDVA will keep you updated about the MARAC.

Examples of professionals that attend the MARAC are police, IDVA's, Children's Services, Mental health, Probation and Housing.

Should you not want IDVA contact, but feel you would like to look at other domestic abuse support, EDAN Lincs cover the county of Lincolnshire and could offer outreach support and programmes.

They can be contacted on **01522 510041**.

**KEEP THIS SAFE**

**If this leaflet has been given to you, please keep this safe if you have contact with person you are experiencing domestic abuse with.**

