

Cafcass route for referring to MARAC Lincolnshire

Domestic abuse is identified and the Cafcass worker completes a DASH risk assessment [DASH resources – Professional resources](#)

If imminent risk of serious harm or death risks are found from completing the DASH, report any criminal offences on 101/999; a MARAC referral will need to be completed (follow the flowchart for next steps)

Cafcass complete a children's safeguarding referral to Lincolnshire Children's Services for screening with information AND file a 16A risk assessment at Family Court, for the Judge to grant Cafcass the ability to refer to MARAC (usually 1 working day turnaround).

Children's Services screening team notify Cafcass by an outcome letter that the case will be open to a social worker

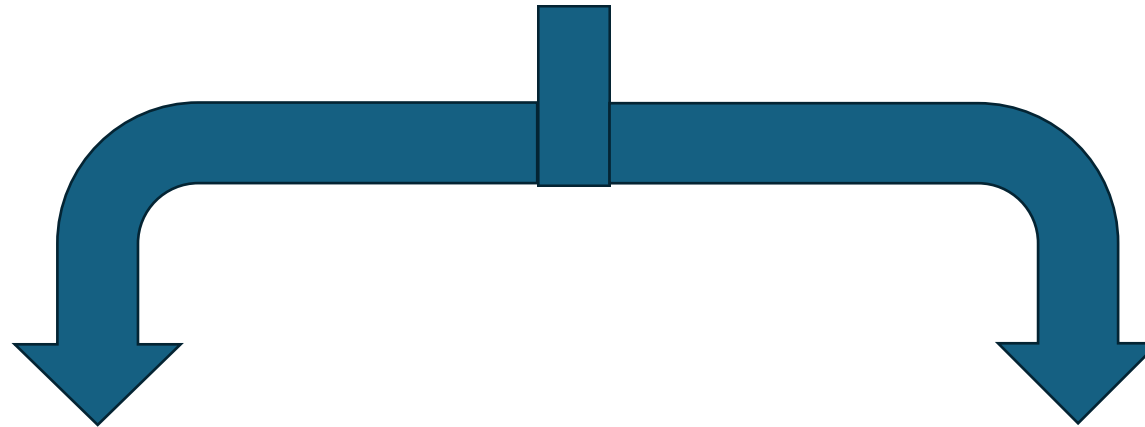
Cafcass liaise with the allocated social worker and discuss the outcome of the submitted 16A risk assessment and if Cafcass can make the MARAC referral. If they cannot, Cafcass will provide Children's Services with their completed DASH* to support with submitting a MARAC referral - [MARAC resources – Professional](#)

Children's Services screening team notify Cafcass by an outcome letter that the case doesn't meet threshold to open to a social worker

Cafcass have not been authorised to refer to MARAC by the Judge at Family Court.

The Judge at Family Court grant Cafcass the ability to refer to MARAC - [MARAC resources – Professional resources](#) the DASH MUST be sent with the MARAC referral paperwork

Cafcass route for referring to MARAC Lincolnshire



Cafcass to link in with any other professional they are aware to be involved with the adult victim (IDVA, LDASS outreach, police, housing officer etc) and share concerns (not DASH) regarding risk with victims consent. Notify the agency that Cafcass cannot make a referral due to the Family Procedure Rules and the Family Court have declined Cafcass to make a MARAC referral. Ask that agency to complete a DASH** and refer to MARAC (Cafcass to provide reasons)

The Children's Services referral has not met threshold previously, Cafcass will continue with their internal escalation policy within the court arena. Cafcass to re-refer to Children's Services making it clear that the 16A risk assessment was declined by the Judge and provide any further updates regarding risk. Children's Service's front door will review the re-referral and consider what is the most appropriate route (i.e open to Children's Services or consider Early Help)

*Information can be shared with the local authority if it is fulfilling a child protection function.

** Information can only be shared with those agencies who are there to solely fulfil a child protection function.

Cafcass route for referring to MARAC Lincolnshire

If it is warranted that a MARAC referral is required, Cafcass **cannot** refer directly to MARAC due to the family procedure rules:

Referring to or sharing information with **MARACs** is not straightforward as they are not deemed to be acting 'in furtherance of child protection' within the meaning of the Family Procedure Rules. To refer a victim and their children to **MARAC** we must either:

- seek permission from court
- request that the LA submits a referral on our behalf, the usual mechanism for doing this would be a safeguarding referral.

Multi Agency
Risk
Assessment
Conferences
(MARAC)

[Domestic Abuse Practice Pathway.pdf](#)

Cafcass's policy is therefore to make a child safeguarding referral to the Local Authority and in doing so ask that they make a MARAC referral on CAFCASS's behalf. Cafcass are to clearly inform the Local Authority that we are unable to refer ourselves under the Family Procedure Rules.

Cafcass, having made a referral to the Local Authority is highly likely to conduct a 16A risk assessment to the Court. A 16A risk assessment is again covered by the Family Procedure Rules and Cafcass Child Safeguarding Policy.

It is to alert the court to a risk to a child. If the Local Authority are not going to refer to MARAC on Cafcass behalf, then Cafcass Lincolnshire can and do make a request to the court, to approve a referral to MARAC.

The turnaround for a 16A risk assessment with the court is 1 working day.

It would be quicker, and more risk focused if the Local Authority complete the referral on Cafcass's behalf to ensure safeguarding is the priority.

[Indicators of domestic abuse such as coercive control | Cafcass](#)

[DA Practice Guidance.pdf](#)