

# MAPPA

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## **What is MAPPA?**

MAPPA stands for Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements. It is not a legal body or framework, but a set of arrangements for supervising offenders in the community. They are principally a structure by which the various agencies an offender comes into contact with can share information and thereby monitor risk factors after the person is released.

## **Which organisations are involved?**

Three agencies have a statutory responsibility to be involved with MAPPA – the Police, Probation Service and Prison Service. Other agencies including social services, the education authority, health services, jobcentres, housing authority, and home detention curfew providers, have a duty to co-operate. However, a MAPPA cannot force any of these organisations to do anything it would not normally do. It does not ensure that a housing authority will house someone they deem to be intentionally homeless, for example.

## **Are the arrangements the same wherever you are?**

Yes. They are statutory arrangements and therefore the same everywhere in the UK.

## **Which offenders are subject to MAPPA?**

There are three categories of offenders who will be subject to MAPPA:

1. Registerable sexual offenders, regardless of the sentence they received (Category 1)
2. People convicted of a violent or other sexual offence (even if nobody was actually hurt), who are not registerable sexual offenders, with a 12 month or more prison sentence or hospital order, for a schedule 15 offence (Category 2)

3. Offenders who do not fall into either of the above categories, but are considered by the authorities to pose an on-going risk of serious harm to the public based on their past behaviour (Category 3).

## **Will the family be told that an offender is subject to MAPPA?**

The offender will be told, and it is up to them whether they tell their family or not. The family will not be told automatically. The MAPPA meeting will authorise disclosure to relatives only if they agree that it is in the best interests of the family. The exception to this is if the person has been convicted of murder. They are then required to inform any future partners or employers of this. This will be monitored by the Probation Service

## **Who is the responsible person?**

Each sentenced offender is assigned to an Offender Manager, who is based in their home probation service. This person is the point of contact for the prisoner and their family. The prisoner should have been told who this person is. Alternatively, it is possible to phone the local Probation Office and find out who the Offender Manager for that individual is. While someone is in prison, they should be assigned to an Offender Supervisor based in the Prison Probation Department. This person will be in contact with the Offender Manager. However, this system does not yet apply to every prisoner – newly sentenced prisoners are being prioritised, but it will be rolled out to include all prisoners eventually.

## **Does the offender go to the meetings?**

No, but they will be informed of the decisions made where appropriate.

### **What happens when someone is subject to MAPPA?**

About six months before they are due to be released the Offender Manager will contact the prison, the police and other organisations with a duty to co-operate (eg social services) with a standard form requesting information about the person. S/he will collate the information they receive and the local Probation Service will assess the risks according to that services' process. They will then make a decision about the level of management they believe the person will need.

### **What levels of MAPPA are there?**

Level 1: Management within normal management procedures.

Level 2: A meeting is required between the agencies involved, to agree a risk management plan.

Level 3: A small number of people may require extra resources not normally available. People who pose a serious risk of harm, or who have attracted a lot of media attention, for example, may be placed at level 3.

### **Do people always stay on the same MAPPA level?**

Not necessarily. It may be that a person only needs to be on level two for a few weeks or months after release, and when the risk management plan is in place, they will be moved down to level one. They could then be moved back up to level 2 if the situation warrants it.

### **Can a person subject to a MAPPA be released on home detention curfew (tagging)?**

Under new rules, people convicted of violent or sexual offences can be considered for home detention curfew.

### **If a family do not want a prisoner to live with them after release, will this be disclosed to the prisoner?**

They will not disclose this. However, after the sentence expiry date there will be no restrictions on where a person goes unless there are civil orders in place.

### **Do victims of crime get any say in MAPPA?**

The Probation Service has a responsibility to inform victims of a prisoner's release or consideration for parole, and will take their wishes into account. A victim living in close proximity who has asked for an exclusion zone may result in the prisoner not being allowed to live at home after release. The victim will not be told where the prisoner is.

### **Does the MAPP meeting have the power to recall someone to prison?**

No, they don't, but they can endorse the decision of the Offender Manager.

### **What happens if MAPPA believe the person still poses a risk at the end of their license period?**

After statutory supervision they can be managed as category 3. There are also a number of civil orders which can be applied for.

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