

the **Howard League** for **Penal Reform**

**Ur
boss**

What is WAPPA?

**Understanding the law
and what it means for you ...**

What is MAPPA?

The main point of MAPPA is to keep the public safe.

MAPPA is the name for planning by the police, YOT, probation, social services and others about people who have received a court sentence or a police caution or warning for violent or sexual offences.

MAPPA planning can include where you should live and what you should do with your time in the community. MAPPA stands for **'Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements'**. Being under MAPPA can mean different things for different people.

**MAPPA stands for
Multi Agency
Public Protection Arrangements**

Who decides you're on it?

Some people have to be on MAPPA because of their offence or their sentence.

There is guidance to tell if your offence or sentence means you will be on it.

You will come under MAPPA if:

- **You are on the sex offenders' register OR**
- **You are still under a sentence of 12 months or more for certain violent or sexual offences.**

You may also come under MAPPA if there is evidence that you might pose a 'risk of serious harm to the public' and you have been convicted or cautioned for a criminal offence.

This guide is a starting point about what the rules say. You can also get your own legal advice to work out what they mean for you.

Everyone under MAPPA is given a 'Level'

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Being managed on MAPPA usually limits things like where you can go, who you can see or what you can do.

If you are managed on MAPPA and in secure accommodation, recommendations for licence or supervision conditions will usually be made as part of the process.

Everyone under MAPPA is given a 'level'. Your level decides who deals with your case and how they will make decisions:

- **Level 1: you are under MAPPA but you are not discussed at official MAPPA meetings**
- **Level 2: your case is discussed by different agencies at MAPPA meetings and decisions will be made about you in the meetings**
- **Level 3: similar to Level 2, except it will involve professionals who are quite high up and more time will be spent on managing your case**

Your YOT or probation worker should tell you what decisions have been made about you.

If you are on levels 2 or 3 the people in the meeting should work together to make sure that plans around your housing, education and supervision will keep the public safe.

WHO TAKES PART IN A MAPPA MEETING AND CAN I GO?

- **People who are being discussed by MAPPA are not allowed to come to MAPPA meetings but you can send a letter to be considered at the meeting**
- **MAPPA meetings are usually run by the police and probation in your local area**
- **Every meeting will be chaired by one person, usually from the police or probation service**
- **Other people may come who work for organisations such as:**

Social services

The Youth Offending Team (YOT)

Mental health specialists

Prison officers

Accommodation providers

Your YOT or probation should tell you what decisions have been made about you

MAPPA is not an individual person or an organisation. It is planning by professionals aiming to keep the public safe

HOW LONG AM I ON IT?

This is different for everyone.

- If you are on the sex offenders' register, you will stay on MAPPA for as long as you are on the register or
- If you are not on the sex offenders' register, you will stay on MAPPA for as long as you are on licence or under supervision or
- If there is evidence that you pose a risk of serious harm to the public, you will stay on MAPPA until it is decided at a MAPPA meeting that you no longer pose a risk.

Your YOT or probation worker should be able to help you with information on this.

THE MAPPA MYSTERY

One of the problems with MAPPA is that it is not an organisation in its own right.

It is just a set of arrangements. This can make it hard to find out who is in charge and who is responsible for answering your questions. It can feel frustrating when decisions about your life seem to be made above your head.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO SUPPORT ME?

The MAPPA guidance says that it is a good idea for people who are under MAPPA to contribute to the process by writing down their thoughts and feelings and putting them in a letter to be read at the meeting.

You should be able to get support from an advocate, friend or social worker.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER TYPES OF RESTRICTIONS?

When you leave prison you will usually be on licence.

This means you will be given conditions and rules that you must follow or risk being sent back to prison. It is important to follow these 'licence restrictions', otherwise you could be automatically recalled (sent back) to prison (without going to court first).

If you are on a DTO (Detention and Training Order), these conditions are called 'supervision notices'. If you are on supervision, you must be brought to court before being recalled to custody.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

If you do not like the decisions that are made, you are allowed to ask questions and you can complain.

The guidance says that complaints should be addressed to the MAPPA chair and the MAPPA chair will decide who should deal with it.

If your worries are not sorted out following a complaint or your concerns are urgent you can ask a lawyer to advise you on whether you can take it further.

You can also ask for a written note of what has been said about you at MAPPA meetings.

The information you can have about the meeting is decided by the MAPPA meeting Chair. If the Chairperson refuses to give you any information you might want to complain about this. Or, ask a lawyer if you can take it further.

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK?

You should be told if you are being managed by MAPPA, what MAPPA is and what this means for you.

This does not always happen. You may only be told you are on MAPPA very close to your release date if you are in prison.

Any questions you have about MAPPA should go to your YOT or Probation Officer. You could ask:

- **Am I going to be under MAPPA?**
- **What level will I be on?**
- **If I am level 2 or 3, when am I going to be discussed at a MAPPA meeting?**
- **What kinds of things will the MAPPA meeting be talking about?**
- **Who is going to the MAPPA meeting to discuss my case?**

WRITING TO MAPPA

You can write to the MAPPA Chair to:

- **Ask questions**
- **Ask for a summary of the meeting when you were talked about**
- **Make a complaint**

If this is difficult for you or you don't get the answer you're looking for, ask for help from your YOT worker or get in touch with our free legal helpline **0808 801 0308**

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For **legal advice** on MAPPA, or another part of your case, you can call the Howard League's legal advice line (if you are under 21). The phone number should already be on your PIN: **0808 801 0308**

Be part of **U R Boss** and find out more:

Participation freephone: **0808 802 0153**

www.facebook.com/urbosshowardleague

urboss.org

E-mail: **urboss@howardleague.org**

@U_R_Boss

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

There is detailed guidance on how MAPPA works.

If you are a young person, there is a section of the guidance on young people. The guide can be found on the internet and your YOT worker should be able to get you this if you ask them.

There is also a MAPPA leaflet called Information for Offenders, which you can ask for.

This guide was made by
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Special thanks go to
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