

As a Client

Inasmuch as people want to be caring respectful partners, they can find themselves using abusive behaviours to relate. Through a 12 weeks group format, the PAR Program explores the challenges, barriers, and hindrances that create abusive patterns and behaviours.

As a participant in the program you will be respectfully challenged by staff to take responsibility for your behaviour through exploring the following:

- What is abuse? How does it happen?
- How does abuse affect yourself, your partner and children?
- Is acting abusively a choice or does it just happen?
- How do you justify abusive behaviour?
- What belief systems and attitudes allow you to think that abuse is okay?
- What makes it difficult to treat your partner with respect?
- What are healthier ways to handle conflict in a relationship?



To learn more about the PAR Program, please contact the Intake Department at:

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Since 1971

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PAR Brochure – Updated May 2016



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Turning Point: Partner Assault Response Program

**Education/Counselling for
Individuals who have Abused a
Spouse or Intimate Partner**

PAR Programs for Court Mandated
Referrals are Funded by:

Ontario Victim Services Secretariat,
Ministry of the Attorney General

**Funding for this program
provided by the Government of
Ontario**

Transforming Lives in Peel

What Clients Have Said About the PAR Program

“Even though I have at times doubted the program... I realize that I am understood as a person by the group and the facilitators.”

“At first I felt like the victim for having to go to classes for abusing someone. Now I will be known as someone that never abused anyone after this program.”

“I never realized how much garbage I carried in my life. I always thought of myself as a perfect partner and parent and yet I had abuse issues in my life I didn't even think existed.”

“At first I found it very one-sided, but after a while I clearly saw the reason for this. Our partners are not perfect but we are the ones with the abuse problem, the attitude.”

What Partners Have Said About the PAR Program

“It was my lifeline. It kept my sanity, kept my self-esteem at a level where I could function.”

“I liked the fact that they kept me informed as to what was happening. I really felt that they were helping him but were also on my side; they weren't blaming anyone. That was what I liked about it. It was very supportive.”

As A Partner

Your safety is our primary concern.

You are not to be blamed if you have been or are being abused. Anyone choosing to use abuse is responsible for that choice. The PAR program holds those using abuse accountable for the abusive behaviour.

If your current or former partner is participating in a PAR Program you will receive the following supports:

- A minimum of four contacts from a PAR staff person during the 12 weeks of the program. (You are not required to have contact with the PAR Program if you don't want to.)
- Help with safety planning.
- Information about how the PAR Program works.
- A phone call if program staff ever has concerns about your safety.
- Information about community services that may help you and your children.

NOT ALL CLIENTS WILL STOP THEIR ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR. ATTENDING A PROGRAM IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF SAFETY.

The PAR Program

Partner Assault Response (PAR) programs, a component of Ontario's Domestic Violence Court program, are specialized counselling and educational services offered by community-based agencies to people who have assaulted their partners. Some offenders are ordered to attend the PAR program by the court. PAR programs aim to enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable for their behaviour. The program gives offenders the opportunity to examine their beliefs and attitudes towards domestic abuse, and to learn non-abusive ways of resolving conflict.

While an offender is in the PAR program, staff offer the victim help with safety planning, referrals to community resources, and information about the offender's progress.

Programmes d'intervention auprès des partenaires violents

Les programmes d'intervention auprès des partenaires violents (PIPV), qui font partie intégrante du Programme de tribunaux pour l'instruction des causes de violence conjugale de l'Ontario, sont des services spécialisés de counseling et d'éducation offerts par des organismes communautaires à des personnes ayant agressé leurs partenaires. Certains contrevenants reçoivent l'ordre de participer au Programme IPV du tribunal. Les programmes IPV visent à améliorer la sécurité de la victime et à encourager les contrevenants à assumer la responsabilité de leur conduite.

Le programme donne aux contrevenants la possibilité d'analyser leurs croyances et leurs attitudes à l'égard de la violence familiale, et d'apprendre des méthodes non abusives de résolution des conflits.

Pendant qu'un contrevenant participe au PIPV, le personnel offre à la victime de l'aider à planifier sa sécurité, l'oriente vers des ressources communautaires et l'informe des progrès réalisés par le contrevenant.