

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.”

PARTNERS SAID:

“I would recommend the PAR program. It has opened my eyes. I don't know how much he has gotten out of it but I know how much I have gotten out of it. It has really helped me make some decisions.”

“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.”

To learn more about the PAR program in your area, please call the number listed below. You will get information about how to register for the program, how much it costs, who is eligible, etc.



Partner Abuse Response Program
10610 Bayview Avenue
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4C 3N8

Telephone: 905 883 6572 ext 224
Toll Free: 1 888 820 9986 ext 224
Fax: 905 883 6575

PARTNER ASSAULT RESPONSE (PAR) PROGRAM

EDUCATION /COUNSELLING FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ABUSED A SPOUSE OR INTIMATE PARTNER

PARTNER ASSAULT RESPONSE PROGRAM

PAR Programs for Court Mandated Referrals are Funded by:

Ontario Victim Services

Secretariat, Ministry of the

Attorney General

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE PAR PROGRAM

AS A CLIENT

The Partner Assault Response Program is a specialized educational/counselling program for individuals who have been physically violent and/or emotionally abusive or controlling towards a spouse or intimate partner.

In Ontario, PAR Programs are part of the Domestic Violence Court Program. This initiative provides a coordinated criminal justice system response to domestic violence. Following a guilty plea or a finding of guilt, a Judge may order the offender to attend counselling as a condition of Probation, Bail or other court order.

PAR programs:

- Provide 16 group sessions to individuals who have been violent or abusive towards a spouse/partner.
- Are not anger management programs. Most PAR clients have only been violent toward a partner.
- Provide support and outreach to the victim and present partner of a group participant.
- Provide language interpreters for group participants and their partners if necessary.
- Are audited by Ministry staff to make sure they comply with Provincial Standards

We believe that most PAR clients would like to be respectful, caring partners. However, we realize that sometimes you don't act this way. What stops you from being an equal, non-abusive partner?

- Do you put your needs ahead of those of your partner and make excuses for the abuse by blaming your partner?
- Do you blame jealousy, anger or alcohol for the abuse?

PAR Program staff are professionals who will treat you with respect. At the same time, they will also challenge you to take responsibility for your behaviour. You can expect to learn:

- What abuse is and how it affects your partner and children.
- That you made a choice to be abusive.
- How your beliefs and attitudes have been used to justify abusive behaviour.
- Why you sometimes don't treat your partner with respect.
- Different ways to handle conflict.

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

AS A PARTNER

YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIMARY CONCERN.

You are not to blame for the abuse. You may feel that if you had only acted differently they would not have been abusive. This is not true. An important message of the PAR Program is that your partner or former partner is the only one responsible for the abuse.

If your current or former partner is attending a PAR program, you will get:

- A minimum of four contacts with PAR staff during the 16 weeks of the program, if you wish. (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 have any concerns about your safety.
- Information about community services that may help you and your children.