

# PARTNER ASSAULT RESPONSE PROGRAMS

Where to go when you're looking for help

The Partner Assault Response (PAR) program is a 12-week court-mandated program for adults who have been charged with domestic violence and ordered to attend the program. The program's goal is to increase offenders' understanding of domestic violence and abuse, and of non-violent ways to engage in healthy relationships, so that they are less likely to re-offend.

PAR programs also support victims/partners by helping them feel less alone and giving them information to make decisions about their safety and relationship with the offender.

Fifty-three accredited agencies offer PAR programs in Ontario, 10 of which are in the GTA. In Toronto, the John Howard Society of Toronto (JHST) PAR Referral team is responsible for completing clients' intake at court, once the Crown Attorney has given them a list of people eligible for the program. The Referral team then meets with clients and completes an intake: clients can then choose one of the available agencies based on their individual circumstances, such as work schedule, area of the city they live in and language and/or cultural needs.

PAR programs are offered in about 15 languages, and interpreters are available when needed. LGBTQ programming and other culturally specific services are also available.

Note: Other private partner assault programs may describe their services as "usually approved" by the courts or as "not accredited," which means that they have likely not been approved by the Ministry of the Attorney General. These programs may offer counselling services, but they can be expensive and may not offer services for the victim (such as safety planning, links to community resources and other support or information about the offender's attendance at a Ministry-approved program).

*For information about anger management, see the separate resource sheet on this specific topic.*

## John Howard Society of Toronto

1669 Eglinton Ave. W., York, ON

[johnhoward.on.ca/toronto](http://johnhoward.on.ca/toronto)

416 925-2228

[parreferrals@jhst.ca](mailto:parreferrals@jhst.ca)

**Services offered:** A 12-week group education and counselling program on domestic violence and non-abusive ways of resolving conflict: this involves two hours per week in a group setting; support for victims/partners of the

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If any of this information is incorrect or outdated, or if there are additional organizations or programs that would be helpful to include, please e-mail the information to us at [access.resources@camh.ca](mailto:access.resources@camh.ca).

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offender, including safety planning, referrals to community resources, information on offender's progress; anger management group counselling (but this does not address domestic violence interventions or treatment)

**Eligibility:** Offenders 18 years and older at the time of the offence who have been mandated by a court or probation order to attend the program in response to a domestic violence criminal charge

**Fee:** These Ministry of the Attorney General programs are available on a sliding scale (the agency will conduct a financial assessment and then let you know what your fees are)

**Referral:** Referred through the court (no self-referrals)