

Catholic Family Services Peel Dufferin Partner Assault Response (PAR) Program

“Our mandate is to strengthen families and help stop family violence.”

Address:	10 Gillingham Drive, Unit 201 Brampton, ON L6X 5A5
Area served:	County of Dufferin and Town of Caledon
Accessibility:	Service provided in 16 languages. Check locations for wheelchair accessibility.
Hours:	Office: 8:30 am – 9:00 pm M-Thu, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm F No after-hours service.
Telephone:	(905) 450-1608, ext 122 and toll-free in Dufferin 1-888-940-0584

Services

Catholic Family Services Peel Dufferin (CFSPD) will provide Partner Assault Response (PAR) programming in the regions of Caledon and Dufferin.

1. Partner Assault Response Program

- A Partner Assault Response (PAR) group program is an essential component of operations in the Domestic Violence Court. The program is funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General and managed according to the Ministry’s *Program Standards*.
- PAR is a sixteen-week therapeutic group which seeks to help men stop their violent, abusive and controlling behaviour toward their female partners.
- Service locations in Peel Region (Caledon) and Dufferin County (Orangeville).
- Accepts adult men (18 years and over) who are or have been physically and/or emotionally abusive to their partners.
- Types of referral sources:
 - Mandated referral of post-adjudicated men either pre-sentence through the Domestic Violence Court Early Intervention Program or after criminal conviction by Probation and Parole. Letters of acceptance/rejection and completion/discontinuation of the Program will be provided to the referring agency.
 - Mandated or negotiated referral from Dufferin Child and Family Services or other Children’s Aid Society.
 - Community-based referrals through professionals, friends or partner. With the client’s permission, a letter will be sent regarding his progress.
 - Self-referral by any man not involved in court.
- Quick access to service, the groups have an open format and accept new men weekly.
- Fees and an intake interview are required for the Program. Although fees are considered an important part of holding a man accountable for abusive behaviour, it is recognized

that some individuals may be unable to pay full fees. In its commitment to serve poor and marginalized persons, CFSPD will negotiate fee reductions according to its policy and procedures.

- Up to four cultural interpreters can be accommodated in a group.

2. Alternatives to PAR group programming:

- For persons who have been mandated to attend PAR and are not served appropriately within the group program.
- Women:
 - In Peel Region, women will be referred to Merge Counselling and Education Services in Mississauga.
 - In Dufferin County, women will be offered individual counselling through CFSPD.
- Men in the LGBTQ community:
 - In Peel and Dufferin, they will be referred, if desired, to the David Kelly Services PAR Program in Toronto or offered other types of service, including individual counselling.
- Women in the LGBTQ community:
 - In Peel, they will be referred to the David Kelly Services or to Merge Counselling and Education Services.
 - In Dufferin, they will be referred to David Kelly Services or offered other types of service.

3. Partner Contact:

- A subsidiary service within the PAR program.
- Staff make monthly telephone contact with the person harmed and/or the client's new partner (if there is one) to provide information about the PAR Program, assess safety and well-being, offer service and assist with safety planning.
- Managed by counsellors, who have no direct contact with the PAR client.
- Service locations in Peel Region (Caledon) and Dufferin County (Orangeville).
- No fees.
- Language resources available

4. CFSPD service, located in Caledon and Dufferin, for families experiencing domestic violence

Adults Who Have Experienced Childhood Abuse

Counselling services for adults who have experienced trauma from childhood abuse:

- Support groups for women who've experienced trauma related to sexual, physical, emotional abuse and neglect in childhood and adolescence.
- Individual counselling for women and men to explore the impacts of childhood abuse.
- Couple and family work to support the healing process.

Partner Abuse

Comprehensive services for families experiencing partner abuse:

- Support groups for women who have been abused by their partners.

- Individual and family counselling for women and men who have been abused by their partner.
- In conjunction with Family Transition Place, support groups for women who have experienced domestic violence.

5. CFSPD services, located in Caledon and Dufferin, that are not directly related to domestic violence

Individual, Couple & Family Program

Through Individual, Couple or Family work, this program strives to improve relationships, reduce emotional distress and enhance personal well-being by providing support for the following:

- Individuals experiencing loneliness, low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, work concerns, bereavement and other life stressors
- Couples experiencing relationship difficulties including poor communication, lack of intimacy, affairs, extended family pressures, or contemplating separation/divorce
- Families coping with developmental transitions, cultural adjustment, parenting, step-family concerns, separation or divorce or other relationship concerns.

6. Walk In Clinics

Dufferin clients also have the option to attend the weekly walk- in clinic in Brampton or Mississauga. At the Walk-in session counsellors work together with the individual, couple or family to identify steps to begin making positive change. For some the Walk-in session may offer enough new ideas however, clients who require additional services after Walk-in will be placed on the Dufferin County wait list. Services offered at walk in include:

- Individual, Couple & Family Therapy
- Partner Abuse Individual and Family Counselling
- Trauma counselling for Adults Who Have Experienced Childhood Abuse

Responsibilities Re: DART Program

Partner Assault Response Program

1. Referral

Mandated referrals are made by Probation and Parole, the Crown Attorney's Office, Victim Witness and the Children's Aid Society.

- To facilitate access, Orangeville Probation and Parole contact CFSPD and book Intake sessions on behalf of their clients.
- Men who are referred to the PAR Program by the Crown Attorney's Office as part of the Early Intervention Program must CFSPD's Centralized Intake within 48 hours of their referral.
- Clients from all other referral sources are required to call CFSPD's Centralized Intake to book an intake session with a caseworker/Program staff.

CFSPD staff will document all referrals to the PAR program including the:

- Date and time of the client's call(s) to the program.
- Date and time of CFSPD staff attempts, successful or not, to reach the client.
- Nature of the charges laid against the client
- Nature of the client's plea in court, as well as the resulting conviction
- The referral source.
- Location of the court in which the client appeared

2. Intake

A CFSPD Caseworker / Counsellor will conduct a face-to-face intake interview with all PAR clients. The purpose of the intake meeting is to:

- Initiate a therapeutic relationship
- Explain informed consent and exceptions to confidentiality
- Sign all required consent forms for the PAR program in order to facilitate coordinated service and engage in Partner Contact
- Assess the safety of the client, partner(s) and children.
- Collect demographic information regarding the client and family.
- Orient the client to the Program, explain the policies and procedures and answer questions.
- Begin the process of challenging denial, minimization and blaming.
- Provide clients with an orientation package including CFSPD brochure, welcome document, participation agreement, the date, time and location of group (for men), or number of sessions and individual counselling plan for (women).

For clients referred by Probation and Parole or the Crown Attorney's Office, the following documents help the PAR Program staff to understand the nature of the offence, its impact on the victim, the conditions by which the client is bound, the level of risk involved and the client's willingness to be accountable for using abusive behaviours.

The client should bring to the intake meeting all applicable documents from the list below:

- Probation Order (if appropriate)
- Revised bail conditions (Early Intervention Program)
- Proof of legal name
- Current mailing address and phone number(s) where they can be contacted.
- Name of collateral contact (Probation Officer, Crown Attorney, CAS Worker, etc.).
- Name and contact information for a) the person harmed, b) current partner
- Name and contact information for Ontario Works or ODSP Worker, if applicable

3. Notification of acceptance or non-acceptance into the PAR Program

CFSPD staff will fax written notification to the referral source upon a client's acceptance or refusal of admission into the PAR Program. If a drug or alcohol problem is suspected, a treatment program will be recommended.

4. Notification of missed intake sessions

CFSPD staff will take the following steps when mandated clients miss their scheduled intake session;

- Fax written documentation to the referral source if a client schedules and then fails to attend an intake session with Program Staff.
- **For Early Intervention clients**, staff will fax written documentation of the client's failure to contact the Program to the Crown Attorney's Office, within 48 hours of the time set on the revised Recognizance of Bail.

5. Group Format and Procedures

- The PAR group will include sixteen rotating themes, covering the mandatory contents of the PAR Program. They are designed to invite those who have used violence in intimate relationships to:
 - Reflect on their behaviours.
 - Understand the impact of their actions on themselves and others.
 - Learn new ways of relating in their intimate relationships with partners and with their children.
- The topics are organized under the following thematic headings:
 - Intimacy and Relationships,
 - Perception
 - Preferences
 - Safety
 - Potential
 - Responsibility
 - Acceptance
 - Consequence
 - Learning
 - Remorse
 - Compassion
 - Apology

- Whenever possible, leadership of the group will involve a co-gendered team to model equality and respect and challenge oppressive power relations between men and women. Facilitation may also include students, interns from partner agencies, volunteers and up to four cultural interpreters.
- The group format will consist of:
 - Fifteen minutes before group's start: attendance check and payment of fees.
 - Prompt start at stated time. Those who are not present will be considered as missing a session.
 - Announcements and agenda review.
 - Check in with all participants regarding successes and struggles over the past week
 - Lesson on the specific curriculum topic.
 - Discussion of the topic.
- If a client engages in unusual behaviour or makes statements which suggest that his/her partner is at risk, the Partner Contact Program staff will be notified immediately in order to contact the partner(s) and to discuss safety planning.

6. Follow-up interventions with legally mandated clients

Absences and Failures

- For all clients, staff will:
 - Fax written documentation if a client misses a session or fails the Program entirely within 24 hours

Re-offence

If a client re-offends, staff will notify police, probation or other legally mandated services within 24 hours. Furthermore, should the client present a risk to his current or past partner, the Partner Contact Program will be advised. The Partner Contact Program will contact the woman immediately to discuss safety planning. If the client is charged, he will become ineligible to participate in the PAR program until the adjudication process is completed.

If the woman discloses that a re-offence has occurred and:

- She wishes to report it to Police or Probation; the PAR Program will provide full cooperation with the Partner Contact Program in doing so.
- She wishes not to report this information, the PAR Program will respect her right to confidentiality

Premature Termination

Program staff will caution a client who is at risk of termination, but does not present an imminent risk of danger to others. In the case of actual expulsion, staff will notify the referral source, Police or appropriate partners within 24 hours and document the reasons. The victim will be advised immediately in situations involving risk to her or others.

Clients can be expelled for the following reasons:

- More than two absences in one 16-week cycle.
- Continued non-payment of fees.
- Pattern of attendance under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Behaviours in or out of the group that seriously undermine treatment.
- Disclosure of a serious mental health or medical condition that necessitates a different form of treatment.
- Presents a risk of danger to group members or staff.

7. Completion of PAR Program

When a legally mandated client completes the group staff will notify the referring agency.

The person harmed will also be notified.

Staff will send letters to all clients - legally mandated and voluntary – acknowledging their completion of the Program and encouraging them to seek additional services if necessary. Where a drug or alcohol problem is known or suspected, clients will be urged to enter a certified treatment program.

Partner Contact Program

With the consent of the PAR client, Partner Contact Program Staff will contact the current/previous partner to explain the group process, address concerns, encourage safety planning, clarify ongoing contact and offer women's group orientation or an individual counselling session.

Permitted provision of information will include the client's attendance in the program, disclosure of abusive behaviour, any attempts to disrupt the group and caution around her/others' safety as indicated by the clients' behaviours. Partners who inquire will also be informed of all program fees paid by the client.

Child Protection Protocol

1. Reporting requirements

In accordance with Section 72.3 of the Child and Family Services Act, all CFSPD Staff, students, volunteers and cultural interpreters will report any child protection concerns to the Children's Aid Society in the area where the child resides. In Dufferin County, Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) is incorporated as the Children's Aid

Society. Caledon is served by the Children's Aid Society of the Region of Peel (Peel CAS).

2. Violence Against Women (VA W) and Children's Aid Society (CAS) Protocol¹

According to the CAS/VAW Protocols in Peel Region and Dufferin County, CFSDP will collaborate with the CAS agencies at certain points where their work intersects.

It is noted that the CAS and CFSDP will hold the perpetrator accountable by recommending, for example, court ordered participation in PAR Programs. Fathers should also be instructed by the court to support their children's participation in programs dealing with exposure to abuse.

Collaboration

The CFSPD PAR Program is part of a broader criminal justice and coordinated community response to domestic violence and domestic violence. The Supervisor of the PAR Program will participate as a signatory on the Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committee (DVCAC) and the Domestic Assault Review Team (DART).

**We are committed to collaboration within the
Domestic Assault Review Team.**

¹ CFSPD is a signatory to two versions of the Collaboration Agreement for the Children's Aid Society and Violence Against Women Agencies, one in the Regional Municipality of Peel and the other in the County of Dufferin