

Access Counselling & Family Services

Differences Between ANGER MANAGEMENT & PARTNER ABUSE RESPONSE PROGRAMS?		
	Anger Management	Partner Abuse Response Program
Are standards established for program?	No. Programs vary considerably from organization to organization.	Yes, standards are established by the Ministry of the Attorney General and are consistent across Ontario.
Who is served by the program?	Perpetrators of stranger or non-intimate violence. People who struggle with blow ups and managing their anger.	Specifically designed to work with people who have been involved in a domestic violence offence and have been ordered to attend a Partner Abuse Response program.
How long is the program?	Varies between a one session workshop to a course lasting 3-6 weeks.	A total of 13 sessions: 1 assessment/information session; 12 week group program. Participants must attend all sessions.
Are men & women in the same groups?	Yes. Often, both men & women will attend the same Anger Management course.	No. Partner Abuse Response programs offer separate groups for men & women. They never attend the same group which helps ensure safety & prevents re-victimization.
Is there contact with the victims?	No	Yes. With her agreement, the program has regular contact with her to ensure her safety, provide information about services for her & her children, & an overview of PAR program. She is contacted if she is considered to be in danger & when the participant has completed the program.

What is the emphasis of the program?	Primarily an educational focus with recommended skills to help participants recognize & manage outbursts of anger (e.g. participants are taught to use techniques like %time outs+)	The main emphasis is increasing safety for victims and holding participants accountable for their behaviour. Violence and abusive behaviours are seen as choices made by participants to control their intimate partners. It can include physical, sexual, verbal, emotional & economic abuse. The program helps participants examine what ideas & feelings have lead to the use of abusive behaviours, and the effects of abuse on their lives, their relationships, & their children. The program encourages participants to take responsibility for their abuse & invites them to develop practice alternatives to abusive behaviours.
Does program provide feedback to Probation & Court?	No	Yes. Participants must consent to on-going contact between PAR staff & Probation staff/Court. A summary of the participants progress in the program is provided.
Do programs assess for lethality?	No	Yes; in two ways, although neither is a perfect prediction model. 1. PAR programs, at the very least, ask questions which reveal how potentially lethal the participant may be (e.g. does he keep a gun at home; has he ever been convicted of other violent offences.) 2. PAR programs can encourage victims to have a Danger Assessment completed in order to determine the degree of risk she is in.
Are programs linked to the Court, Probation and other services?	No . stand alone	Yes. PAR services are coordinated with the Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committee, Probation Services, and Services for victims.
Are group leaders knowledgeable re: domestic violence?	Will vary. Some will have this knowledge; others won't.	Yes. Is essential for program facilitators to have this knowledge.