

Individual Support: Our staff provide navigational support, such as explaining how the system works and what to expect. We also provide emotional support, and can help families to cope with their circumstances and move forward with their lives.

Court Support: Some families may be eligible for court support services, which includes accompanying family members to court, working with court staff in case coordination, and providing more intensive counselling throughout the court process.

Group Support: ANCRSS (Advocates for the Not Criminally Responsible Schizophrenia Sufferers) is an e-mail-based peer support group initiated by families for families with a loved one involved in the justice system. ANCRSS provides a safe space where families in complex situations can share their stories and gain from collective experiences and knowledge exchange.

Peer Support: Some families may benefit from talking to someone who has been in their situation. Our staff can connect people with a family member who has been in through a similar experience to obtain guidance and advice.

JAMH has a province-wide mandate and can provide e-mail and phone support to families across Ontario. In-person support is available to those in the GTA. We also provide referrals and can direct families to services in their local area.

Mission

To improve the quality of life for those affected by schizophrenia & psychosis through education, support programs, public policy & research.

Mandate

- To support, educate, engage, and empower families
- To promote community awareness
- To advocate on behalf of families affected by schizophrenia
- To work cooperatively with organizations for allied disorders
- To support and advocate for relevant research
- To promote early intervention

www.schizophrenia.on.ca

For more information, contact:
Schizophrenia Society of Ontario
Justice and Mental Health Program

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Schizophrenia Society
of Ontario

Justice and Mental Health Program (JAMH)

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SOCIÉTÉ ONTARIENNE DE LA SCHIZOPHRÉNIE
SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY OF ONTARIO
JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Mandate

To support families of people with mental illness who have come in contact with the law while promoting change in mental health and justice.

The Justice and Mental Health program (JAMH) was established to meet the needs of families and influence positive system change in the area of mental health and the law. The pillars of the JAMH program are:

Support Services: Individual, group or peer support for people whose family member has been in contact with the law.

Education: Information, resources and training on mental health and justice issues for families and professionals.

Advocacy: Advocacy on behalf of families as well as system-level advocacy to create change through effective public policy.

Partnership: Collaboration with other organizations and stakeholders towards common goals.

Fact

The number of people with mental disorders in the justice system is increasing at the rate of about 10% a year.

Not Criminally Responsible (NCR): When the court finds that a person, because of a mental illness, could not appreciate the nature or consequences of their actions did not know that the actions were wrong at the time of the act.

Unfit to Stand Trial: When the court finds that a person, because of a mental illness, cannot understand what is happening in court or is unable to communicate with their lawyer.

Simply having a mental illness does not make a person NCR or Unfit to Stand Trial.

Crown Attorney: A lawyer who represents the government in criminal cases. The Crown's job is to bring all the evidence before the court to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Defense Attorney: A lawyer who represents the person charged. His or her job is to ensure that the rights of the accused are protected throughout the justice process and that the accused receives a fair trial.

Court Diversion: When the Crown decides not to prosecute a person who has been charged with an offence, but instead put them through a treatment and/or support program.

Forensic Assessment: Also known as a Form 48, this psychiatric assessment is conducted to determine if a person is NCR or Unfit to Stand Trial.

Ontario Review Board (ORB): An independent panel that makes decisions about people who are NCR or Unfit to Stand Trial, including what level of security they require and when they can be released.

The JAMH program supports families at every stage in the justice process. Contact the JAMH Program if you have a family member who:

- Has been in contact with the police because of a mental illness;
- Was recently charged with a criminal offence;
- Is going through a court diversion program;
- Is currently in a jail or forensic hospital or was recently released/discharged;

We also help families do advocacy around other justice issues, such as police record checks, deportations, appeals, and inquests.

Frequently Asked Questions

- My son was just charged with a crime. What is going to happen next?
- How can I communicate with professionals in the justice and mental health system, such as lawyers, doctors, and case managers?
- My daughter has been found NCR. Will she spend more time in a forensic hospital than she would in jail?
- Does my family member have to consent to treatment in the forensic mental health system?
- Why is my family member in jail when they should be in hospital?
- How do I know if my family member has a police record? How will this record impact them?