



Program Benefits

- Personalized sentencing based on progress within the Program.
- Improved access to health and social services, some of which may remain accessible after the Program is completed, to support rehabilitation, maintain progress and work toward stability.
- Access to a team of devoted workers who are dedicated to guiding and supporting you throughout the Program.
- Support throughout the judicial process.

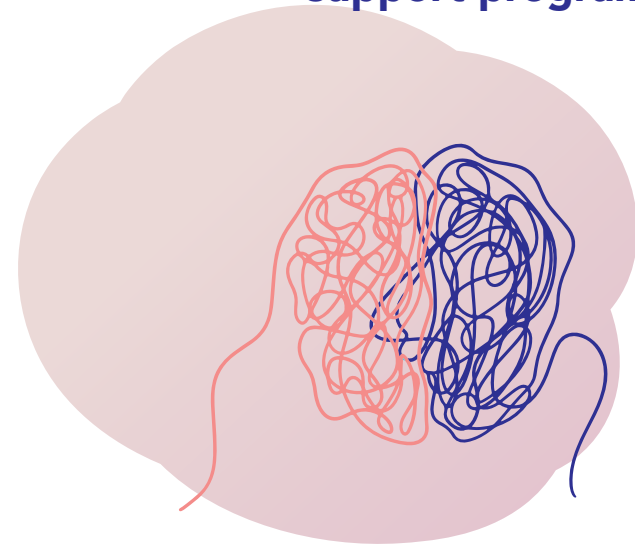
What is the PAJ-SM+?

The PAJ-SM+ strives to adapt the judicial process for accused persons with vulnerabilities, especially at the psychological or cognitive level.

Through this program, the judicial system provides accused persons with comprehensive support in order to develop an intervention plan (IP) that fosters social reintegration and reduces or eliminates their risk of repeat offences while helping to protect complainants, victims and society.

PAJ-SM+

**Justice and mental health
support program +**



Who is eligible?

To be eligible for the Program, an accused must:

- Have mental health issues and/or addiction issues and/or a neurodevelopmental condition (intellectual impairment, autism spectrum disorder) and/or a brain injury.
- Take responsibility for the act or omission that resulted in the offence with which they were charged.
- Want to improve their situation, acknowledge their vulnerabilities and actively participate in the goals set out in their intervention plan in order to foster their rehabilitation and social reintegration.
- Waive the right to invoke judicial timelines due to their participation in PAJ-SM+.
- Fit to stand trial and criminally responsible.

Key steps in the Program

- Complete the referral and authorization form by yourself or with your lawyer if you get one.
- Meet the social worker to assess your Program eligibility.
- Discuss your goals and how to improve your situation with the social worker.
- Collaborate with the Program team's follow-ups
- Appear at your court hearings, which will be scheduled according to your progress.
- Complete the Program (once you have achieved your goals; generally 12 to 18 months).

Ineligible offences are those that:

- Result in death or involve attempted murder or conspiracy to commit murder.
- Are in the exclusive jurisdiction of the Superior Court.
- Are of a sexual nature committed against persons under the age of 18.
- Involve sexual or domestic violence.
- Involve elder abuse.
- Relating to the operation of a motor vehicle resulting in bodily harm.
- Involve terrorism.
- Are related to a criminal organization.
- Involve firearms or other weapons or the indictable use of such weapons.
- Are considered ineligible at the sole discretion of the prosecutor.

However, a person who committed the following offences may be eligible for PAJ-SM+:

Offences involving sexual violence (except when committed against a person under the age of 18), domestic violence or elder abuse that are prosecuted by summary conviction, provided the victim consents. This consent must be free, informed, and clearly communicated throughout the process.

A victim may, at any time, withdraw their consent to the accused's participation in the Program. If consent is withdrawn, the accused must return to the regular judicial process.

The PAJ-SM+ program is

- **Voluntary** : You are free to participate and withdraw at any time.
- **Collaborative** : You make decisions jointly with your lawyer, probation officer, prosecutor and social worker to ensure the service meets your current needs.
- **Confidential** : Some information collected will be used to determine eligibility for Program hearings and for statistical purposes. Under no circumstances will the information collected be used against you in subsequent judicial proceedings without your express consent.

For more information, contact :

For full details about the PAJ-SM+, visit :

<https://www.justice.gouv.qc.ca/programmes-et-services/programmes/pajsm> [in French only]

