

## Impact of Gang Involvement

Gang membership takes a terrible toll on the lives of all those who come into contact with gang members.

- Family of gang members fear for their own safety as well as the survival of the child involved in the gang
- Gang membership may be a temporary phase for some youth but can ruin their future
- Gang members often abuse alcohol/drugs, have long police records, that result in truancy and expulsion which can limit future job opportunities
- Gang-related crimes can increase punishment up to an additional 25 years to life in prison

## WHAT TO DO...

### Be Proactive, Prevention is key!

Gangs thrive by instilling fear in the community and rival gangs. Their power grows when citizens are too afraid to report crime and work with the police and law enforcement. This is a community problem that requires a responsible awareness from all of its citizens.

**BECOME AWARE** of gangs and gang activities - parents with basic knowledge can protect their children from gangs and becoming victims of violence.

**TALK** to your kids about the dangers of gang activity and keep them busy in sports and other activities.

**LOOK** for changes in the behavior of your child such as dress, truancy, a drop in grades, change of friends, coming home late and graffiti in bedrooms or on phones, books, binders.

**REMOVE** items that might identify your child as a gang member.

**CHECK** their phones and other web enabled devices - you have the right to know what your child is up to, so look for things that might be gang related and talk about it!

**GET INVOLVED** and **TAKE A STAND** against gang activity by cooperating with authorities - Neighborhood Watch programs and Crime Alert can protect your identity when reporting a crime.

## Positive Options

Youth who hang out in places after school are targets for gangs. There are places that offer organized and supervised programs free of gang influences, including:

- Local Neighborhood Organizations
- The Boys and Girls Club
- Parks and recreation departments, community sports programs
- Your child's school/church
- DA Youth Programs



## Resources

Always Knocking	916.422.2505
Another Choice Another Chance	916.224.4677
Asian Resources	916.454.1892
CA Gang Violence Prevention Services	916.271.6315
Cops and Clergy	916.808.0844
Gang Violence Suppression (Sac Police Dept)	916.808.0332
Inkoff.me (ex-gang tattoo removal)	916.600.4428
La Familia	916.452.3601
Mutual Assistance Network	916.927.7694
People Reaching Out	916.576.3300
Roberts Family Center	916.646.6631
Sacramento Boys & Girls Club	916.392.1350
Sacramento Urban League	916.286.8600
Strategies for Change	916.395.3552
Wellspace Health	916.737.5555

901 G Street - Sacramento, CA 95814

916.874.6218

CA Relay Service 800.735.2929 TDD or 711



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# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GANGS



*"Gang membership and gang-related activity have long lasting and detrimental impacts on our youth and the entire community. I am committed to working with parents, schools, community based organizations as well as law enforcement to educate, protect and prevent our children from a life of gang violence and crime."*

District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert



District Attorney  
**Anne Marie Schubert**  
Sacramento County  
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## What is a Gang?

- Three or more people who claim a common name, symbol, or territory
- Involved in criminal activity, often for money
- Generally ethnically segregated
- Come from all social and economic backgrounds
- Relies on intimidation and notoriety

## Why Youth Join Gangs

- A sense of "family"
- Need for food or money
- Desire for protection
- Peer pressure
- Family history or tradition
- Excitement
- To appear cool



## Preteens and Gangs – Early Signs

Gang involvement and recruitment can begin as early as 7 or 8 years old. Parents and educators should watch for signs that their kids and students might be involved with gangs. Noticeable changes in behavior or activities can be early warning signs, including:

- Rebellious behavior at school and home
- Truancy/drop in grades
- Pulling away from family (not having regular meals with family, not going to family events)
- Change of friends
- Staying up late, drug use
- Having a lot of money or new expensive items which they can't explain how they got

## Girls as Gang Members

- Make up almost 10% of the overall gang population
- Most often come from troubled homes where abuse and domestic violence are common
- Will typically hide or transport drugs and weapons for the gang



## Identifying Gang Members

Signs of someone who is a gang member include:

- Wearing gang clothing or gang colors including, hats, shoes, handkerchiefs of a certain color
- Fighting others to gain a reputation of being bad
- Tattoos identifying as a gang member
- Gang graffiti or art in their bedroom or on items such as books, posters and bedroom walls
- Using hand signals to communicate with "friends," and/or other gang members
- Having photos showing gang names, slogans, insignia or activities
- Initiation activities – "rites of passage"
- Hidden weapons
- Having marking pens and spray paint cans
- Rebellious toward authority figures, could involve violent behavior
- No motivation and no future goals or plans
- Any of the above posted on a child's Instagram, Facebook page or other social media



## Gangs & Social Media

In the past, physical territorial boundaries limited the encounters gangs had with one another. Today, rival gang members can cross paths at any time on social media sites including Snapchat, YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. This has made gangs even more dangerous. The use of social media by gangs has led to fights and even death.

Gangs use social media:

- To recruit and glorify gangs, often through music videos
- To brag about weapons, make threats, warn rivals to stay on their own turf
- Sell illegal drugs and exploit girls by getting them involved in sex trafficking
- To mourn a victim after murders and provoke rival gangs

## Gang Activity

### Violence

- Gang violence can erupt anytime, anywhere - from verbal and physical fights to shootings (drive-bys) to murder
- Gang members go places where non-gang members are - violence can happen at shopping malls, parks, theaters, etc.
- Be aware of your surroundings - gang violence is real and innocent bystanders can become victims

### Income

- Gangs have two goals – to make money and protect their turf
- Use/sell illegal drugs and prostitution
- Use youth to sell drugs such as cocaine, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamine
- Profit from other crimes such as theft, extortion and gun sales

### Human Trafficking

- Sex trafficking is the third most profitable criminal enterprise in the world
- Gang controlled sex trafficking is quickly surpassing the profit made by distributing drugs or weapons
- Male gang members will lure girls in by pretending to be their boyfriend
- Female gang members will lure unsuspecting girls by befriending them
- Drugs, lavish gifts, and emotional tactics are all methods used to control victims
- Traffickers often target malls, group homes and schools

### Graffiti

Neighborhoods marked with gang graffiti make everyone who live in those neighborhoods targets for violence. Gang graffiti is used to:

- Glorify and declare loyalty to a gang, showing a gang's status or power
- Mark territory or turf - intimidate and challenge rival gangs
- Communicate messages between gangs using codes
- Raise fear within neighborhoods