

BASIC CRIMINAL STREET GANG INFORMATION

WHAT IS A GANG?

A gang is a group of three or more people who associate together, have a common identity and engage in criminal or delinquent activity. Gang members include males and females of all ages, races and ethnicities.

REASONS PEOPLE JOIN GANGS

- Attention
- A sense of belonging or brotherhood
- Excitement and/or Peer Pressure
- Protection
- Financial Gain

Many youths do not realize the risks, consequences and hazards of gang involvement.

Parents should discuss gangs with their child and actively discourage gang association at an early age.

SIGNS OF GANG ASSOCIATION

- Sudden behavior
- Decline in grades
- Truancy
- Graffiti in the youth's room, on school folders or on clothes
- Change in friends
- Drug and/or alcohol use
- Possession of money or items that a parent cannot explain.
- Involvement of your child with a group of their friends involved in delinquent or criminal behavior may be another sign.
- Use of hand signals to communicate with other gang members. Use of such signals should alert parents and caregivers to possible gang association.

GANG PARAPHERNALIA

CLOTHING:

- Particular color, type
- Gang symbols on clothing, hats
- Manner in which clothing worn

COLORS:

- Particular colors may indicate gang association
Red: Bloods or Northern California Hispanic Prison Gangs
Blue: Crips or Southern California Hispanic Prison Gangs
Yellow: Asian Gangs
Black: Variety of gang associated youths

GRAFFITI:

- May be found on bedroom walls, posters
- Interior of vehicles, doors & furniture
- May be a gang member's name or gang name
- Roman Numerals also have a significance

JEWELRY:

- Belt buckles, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, etc.
- Dice earrings show the "set" they are associated with

PHOTOGRAPHS:

- Pictures of your child alone or with other gang members
- May display hand signs, weapons, clothing styles, or money

WEAPONS:

- Kids involved with gangs commonly carry weapons such as baseball bats, tire irons, chains, spiked wrist bands, a pipe, "martial arts" weapons, knives, "look alike" pellet guns, or other guns.

HOW GANGS FUNCTION

- Gangs thrive on intimidation and publicity
- Gangs depend on both individual and group participation
- Gangs will have a name or common identity. The name usually comes from their town, a street, an area, their phone area code, housing project, rock bands, cults, or personal beliefs of the members.
- Members may have nicknames (monikers) as well. The name frequently fits the member's personality (real or perceived) or relate to some physical or mental traits.

EFFECTS OF GANG INVOLVEMENT

- Gangs are a terrible burden on society. Family members must worry about their safety as well as their child's.
- Parents can be subjected to heavy financial bills for legal services, medical treatment, jail housing, and restitution to victims.
- The gang involved youth can expect to be arrested and prosecuted for their criminal activity.

The violator will not only be prosecuted for this crime, they can also be charged with criminal gang enhancements F.S.S. 874.04, which could result in more jail time.

WHAT GANGS DO

- Gang members commit a variety of crimes. These include robbery, burglary, thefts, vandalism, assaults, rape, and narcotic offenses.
- Gangs use graffiti to let the community know they exist and to mark their territory gang information. Gang violence often claims innocent victims.

THE MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE HAS A "ZERO TOLERANCE" FOR GANG ACTIVITY



Florida State Statute 874.05

States that a person who intentionally causes, encourages, solicits, or recruits another person to become a criminal gang member where a condition of membership or continued membership is the commission of any crime commits a felony of the third degree.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM GANG INFLUENCE:

- **IDENTIFY** – Give them a sense of who they are in the family, what values your family represents, and a sense of self-esteem.
- **PROTECTION** – Food, shelter, clothing and a feeling that the family is a refuge from outside negative forces. A place where there is love and when hurt happens, a place where "wounds get licked."
- **SENSE OF BELONGING** – Acceptance is probably one of the strongest emotionally drawing forces. Families do not need to condone negative behavior, but it is important to still be loved and be an important part of the family – even when we make mistakes.
- **BOUNDARIES AND LIMITS** – Children do not feel loved or protected if there are no limits or boundaries. Boundaries should be set with thought and reasons for the purpose of teaching the child to make good choices. Gangs, on the other hand, have no problem setting limits-you cross the line, you're DEAD!
- **MONITOR** – Have access to your children's activity on the computer, know the user names and passwords. Review sites they access such as MySpace, You Tube, Facebook, etc.

District Offices

Dunnellon District	402-6050
Forest District	402-6040
Marion Oaks District	402-6030
Northeast District	402-6010
North Multi-District	620-7820
Ocklawaha District	402-6020
Silver Springs District	236-7160
Shores District	402-6000
South Marion District	671-3841
South Multi-District	620-7810
Southwest District	402-6060

REPORT SUSPECTED GANG ACTIVITY TO
CRIME STOPPERS AT 368-7867



MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
692 NW 30th Avenue
Post Office Box 1987
Ocala, Florida
(352)732-8181

MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



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Zero Tolerance
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"Building Teams and Breaking Gangs"