

# Recognize the Signs



Gang activity and violence is a critical issue facing many juveniles and young adults. It is important for parents to have the ability to recognize any gang involvement concerning their children. Gang activity will lead to gang violence. Additionally, gang members will try to hide their gang involvement from parents or other adults. They may claim the gang is actually a social club, sports club, dance team, or rap group in an attempt to avoid being labeled as a gang. Parents should be aware of the following indicators and know their relationship to gang activity.

## Physical signs



- ✱ Change in style of clothing
- ✱ Extreme or strange hair styles
- ✱ Tattoos and body piercings
- ✱ Suddenly beginning to use or over-use makeup

## Behavior signs



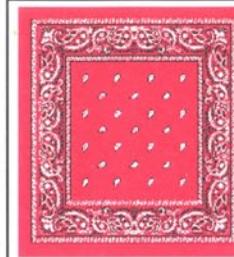
- ✱ Poor school performance / attendance
- ✱ Poor work attendance
- ✱ Little or no interest in family activities
- ✱ Secretive about where he / she is going
- ✱ Staying out later than usual
- ✱ Wanting to be alone all the time
- ✱ Drug and alcohol use
- ✱ Unusual mood patterns or behavior
- ✱ Violent outbursts
- ✱ Having cash with no source of income
- ✱ Associating with known gang members or criminals
- ✱ Changing friends and reluctance for you to meet them
- ✱ Negative contact with people of authority (parents, teachers, coaches)

## Non-verbal communication signs



- ✱ Graffiti style writing on notebooks, books, backpacks, or clothing
- ✱ Use of hand signals
- ✱ Highly stylized or strange writing
- ✱ Bandannas or hats hanging from pocket

## Common gang identifiers



Blood Color



Blood Burn Mark



Eighteen Street Tattoo



Eighteen Street Graffiti



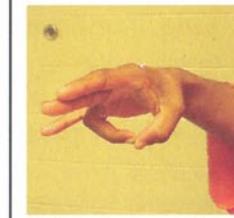
Sureno Tattoo



Trinitarios Colors



White Supremacist



Blood Hand Sign



Red five pointed star (Blood)



Star and Pitchfork (Folk Nation)

## Common gang identifiers



Crip Color



Crip Tattoo



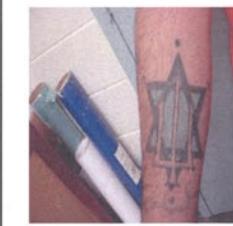
Latin King Clothing



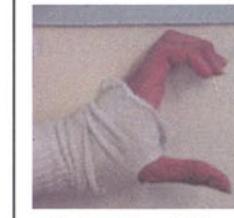
Latin King Tattoo



Neta Beads



Gangster Disciple Tattoo



Crip Hand Sign



MS -13 Graffiti



Latin King Crown



Sureno Tattoo