

Signals Your Child May Send that Indicate Gang Involvement:

- poor academic performance,
- he or she may have friends who are gang members or dress as a member,
- substance abuse,
- he or she may have drawings of gang oriented images, wear gang like clothing, or have material promoting gangs (books, music, movies, etc),
- your child may write or advertize gang activity on social media,



Social media is a great way to monitor gang activity of which your child may be involved.

- repeat run-ins with law enforcement,
- your child may have no interest in participating in hobbies, has a lack of supervision, and has too much leisure time,
- show unusual interest in particular colors, logos, or sports teams,
- carries a weapon or large amounts of cash,
- stays out late and unable to provide reasons why, and
- children may write on their body to get use to the idea of wearing gang tattoos.

Save Your Child from Gangs

- Spend quality time with your child.
- Provide positive and supervised activities to occupy your child's time.
- Provide positive feedback and encouragement.
- Place a greater importance on academics for your child.
- Help your child study by introducing new study habits, communicate with your child's teachers, and do not accept failure as an option.
- Provide discipline and follow through with consequences. Do not reward negative behavior.
- Do not allow your child to interact with individuals associated with gangs.
- Do not allow your child to dress like a gang member or have drawings of gang symbols.
- Be a positive role model for your child.
- Contact your child's school resource officer to address your concerns.

ALWAYS REPORT CRIME TO LAW ENFORCEMENT!



Resources Available for Help

- School administration and faculty
- School resource officer
- Local clergy
- Local, county, and state police departments and all other criminal justice agencies

Indiana State Police
See Something Say Something

Because a gang won't!



"I think we have a moral obligation to our children that can be easily summarized: number one, protect them from harm."

- Tom Allen

Indiana State
Police

Myths about Gangs

- It is impossible for juveniles to get out of a gang without serious repercussions.
- The majority of gang related crime is gang on gang.
- Gangs are primarily “turf” oriented.
- Gangs are highly organized and structured.
- Gangs are not made up of female members.
- Juveniles will not receive penalties for gang related activity.
- Gangs protect members in schools and on the streets.
- A gang is a family.

MYTHS



Did You Know...?

- Often children are approached by gangs in middle school.
- Gangs have been known to target children as young as eight years of age.
- Gang violence places juvenile members at risk of injury or death to themselves or others.
- Many youth gang members become adult offenders; most will cycle in and out of the criminal justice system.

- Families may become victims of violent attacks as members often attack out of retaliation of rival gang members.
- Schools have become a tool for gangs to recruit new members.
- Children in gangs often do not complete school and develop patterns of substance abuse.



80% of gang members say they would leave the gang if offered the right help.

National Gang Research Center

Juveniles are at risk of joining a gang when they...

- receive little parental involvement in their daily lives;
- suffer from strained parent-child relationships;
- experience or witness physical or emotional abuse within their family;
- receive a lack of supervision and positive supervised activities (sports, clubs, extracurricular activities, part-time jobs, etc);
- live in a neighborhood where gangs and gang activity exist;
- associate with gang members, delinquents, or aggressive peers;
- have family members with a history of gang activity;
- suffer from substance abuse;
- have poor academic performance (low grades, truancies, absences, disruptive behavior, etc.); and
- receive little discipline from parents.

Why would my child join a gang?

- Juveniles believe that membership in a gang will offer status and positive attention from peers.
- Movies, television, music, media, and peers glamorize gangs.
- Gangs often promise children and teens sex, drugs, and money.
- Gangs may claim to offer protection from peers, bullying, and other gangs.
- Many juveniles believe that a gang will offer a family dynamic.

“Mom, I would never join a gang.”