

Gangs: Awareness for Parents

Helping parents to become more aware of possible gang activity in their own home

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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data TX 3 285 240 March 19, 1992

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Front cover done by Charlyn Liddell. Manufactured in the United States of America.

Acknowledgment and Dedication

A special thanks to Thomas Babicky, Illinois Department of Corrections Training Officer, and to the Los Angeles Police and County Sheriff's Departments whose conferences and materials were used in the construction of this manual. A note of gratitude to Sgt John D. Shumway, who has been fighting the battle against gangs in Montgomery. Also to Charlyn Liddell whose drawings on all on my manuals is acknowledged with love and gratitude. Finally thanks to Dan Morse, staff reporter for the <u>Alabama</u> <u>Journal</u>, whose articles in the local newspaper have made all Montgomerians more aware of the gang problem.

To the following people for their work toward solving the gang problem in Montgomery: Judge John Davis; Judge Richard Dorrough; Bruce Howell; Chief Probation Officer of Montgomery County, Beverly Riddle Wise; my supervisor. Intake staff: Michael Provitt; Ronda Beesley; Julia Summers; Catherine Andrews; David Beverly; Mickey McDermott; Charles Glasscock; probation staff: Steve Wooten, who edited the parent manual; Patricia Strickland; and Betty Jo Whatley. Finally, John Hurst, Loss Prevention Manager at Parisian's.

The manual is dedicated to my parents Sam and Vera Vrgora, who are my best friends.

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Parents wonder why the streams are bitter when they themselves have poisoned the fountain.

John Locke

This is a guide to be used in the fight against gangs. It will attempt to help parents become more familiar with the identifying factors that are woven into the gang culture. Some of the information was provided by agencies that have had many years of contact with street gangs.

This material is subject to change and should be classified for use only by Parents. Crips and Bloods information was provided by the Los Angeles Police and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Departments. Information containing knowledge about the Disciples and Vice Lords was provided by Thomas Babicky. Also information was provided by Sgt John D. Shumway, Montgomery Police Department and Fredrick Vrgora, M.S., Montgomery County Family Court who investigates gangs in the Montgomery area.

A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval.

Mark Twain What is a Man? 1906

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Gangs

Introduction to Parents

1

The formation of gangs is not a new phenomenon in the United States. From the East to the West coast, gangs have taken over are large cities and have made in roads to rural America. No city is immune from gang activity. It has penetrated the core of our existence, today's young people. Gangs, like the boll weevils of the 1800's, are destroying the inner city youths by the thousands.

In today's world gangs have grown more deadly, than in the past. In the early years gangs were neighborhood based and their names reflected this foundation. However, gangs have exported their brand of violence and a way of life throughout the United States. The National School Safety Center news service reported in their November 1991 issue that gangs have released their unforgiving type of terrorisms all across our nation. The gang population in the country has reached new levels with New York reporting 50 gangs with 5,000 members, Chicago revealing 125 gangs with 12,500 members, Dallas with 225 gangs and Los Angeles reporting 900 gangs with over 100,000 members (National School Safety, November 1991).

The problem is complex and few answers appear to be at hand. Lack of jobs for these youths and poor parental supervision contribute to the gang phenomenon. Causal factors include peer pressure, intimidation by hard core gang members, and poor role models (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

Gang members are often underachievers with no real sense of identity. They try to find their identity within the gang organization. Since most of them are underachievers the gang provides the perfect atmosphere for what they perceive to be important: to make money and gain power (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

The gang members usually comes from low income families, they also have poor academic record, and have either dropped out or has been indefinitely suspended from school. Gangs will be classified as 100% of the nationality of their gang as a whole with less than 1% membership from other races (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

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In the gang members' society, different norms and rules emerge. Any gesture, real or imagined, can be met with harsh and deadly consequences toward rival gang members. All hard-core gang members are willing to defend their turf and their policies to the death. When coming into contact with a possible gang member, it would be best not to show fear. It can never be known weather a gang member wearing colors is hard-core or fringe member, a person should not show disrespect or ridicule their graffiti or clothing. Dangerous and violent consequences could follow (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

I hope that this manual will be very beneficial to parents who feel that their sons or daughters could be involved in gang activity. This manual should help make parents aware of how to detect whether their child is involved in gang activity. Identifying this problem early may be an answer to gang activity. Steps should be taken to get help from the appropriate agencies so that their child will not become a hard-core member. It appears that the deeper their involvement, the harder it is to break the hold of the gang's influence.

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3 The Gangs Attraction

First, let's define what gangs are and how it functions to attract today's youth. The Illinois Department of Correction uses four criteria to identify a gang. A gang is an organized group with a recognizable leader. The gang symbolizes unity during bad and good times, and shows its unity with hand signs, colors or symbols, and the participation in illegal activities. Therefore a gang has four shared elements: loyalty, unity, identity and reward.

There are other relationships that exist when determining if a child is involved in a gang. Gangs have regular local meetings to address gang issues and initiate new members. Also gangs claim to be part of an organization or nation, with some form of leadership. Another issue in determining the establishment of gangs is the degree to which they claim an area as their turf and decorate it with their gang symbols.

There are three basic types of gang members. It is important for parents to determine which characteristics their child displays, so as to categorize their involvement. A leader is a gang member who controls the gang activities. Age is not important and leaders have been identified as young as fourteen years of age. The second type of member is hard-core. A leader is always a hard-core member. Hard-core members live the gang life style twenty four hours a day seven days a week. They are most dangerous and are the hardest to reform. The fringe, marginal or wanna be is the novice member, unfamiliar with the daily activities of the gang.

There seems to be many reasons for a child to join a gang, but the following has been recognized as some of the major reasons. A perceived lack of recognition by parents is often considered to be the major reason for a child joining a gang. Children will join gangs for identity and recognition and to achieve a status level. Gang members are purposely intimidating and will force other children into their gang for protection This is done mostly in their local neighborhoods. To the majority of these youths, gangs serve as extensions of their family. The leader is usually considered a father figure that is lacking in the home. Gangs also provide a sense of brotherhood and fellowship for the susceptible youth. They feel rejected, deprived, insecure, and are ambivalent toward authority figures and are therefore vulnerable to the lure of gangs. (Turner and Helms, 1979).

Another factor to be considered is the peer groups. These peer groups are made up of people of the same ages, interests, and social positions as the child (Landis, 1982). During adolescence peers are a major socializing agent and take on a significance which rivals traditional family influences (Fisherman, 1988). It has been shown with the breakdown of the family and family traditions that the delinquent peer group plays a dominant role.

There are many attractions to gang membership, which prey upon underdeveloped or unhealthy parent and child relationships. The gang and its ability to lift a child's self-esteem and take over for their ineffective parents will continue. However, the child of caring parents will also be effected by gangs. Precaution should be taken by parents who suspect that their child may be showing symptoms of gang membership.

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Identifiers to Gang Activity

There are many gangs which can operate in your particular area. If your child belongs to a gang you will probably recognize some of the descriptions which follow. Identifiers take the form of clothing, graffiti, colors and hand signs. To the gang member these are symbols of their whole world, and a necessary part of their organization. To the hard-core member, they represent the world in which they exist and boundaries in which they want to control (*Gang and Gang Awareness*, 1989).

Graffiti is a way for the gang to mark their turf, using symbols which mean something to the gang member. Graffiti is markings or paintings often seen on walls, clothing, or books. Graffiti serves two major purposes to gang members: (1) it shows dominance over an established turf, and (2) it conveys aggression to an opposing gang. All graffiti should be removed upon discovery to determines if it returns. Removal of graffiti also inhibits gangs from establishing an area as their turf (*Gang and Gang Awareness*, 1989).

Hand signs are used to communicate to one another. They show alliance to one gang and opposition to another.

Gang members are likely to dress alike. Blacks, blue, and red will be dominant colors in their dress. Gangs will not fully wear a rival gangs colors. Clothing is the least effective way of determining if one's child is involved in gang activity.

The Disciples refer to themselves as "folk". They will place the letter "L" up-side down and backwards to show opposition to their rivals the Vice Lords. Disciples are right-oriented and will place their hats, belts, and jewelry to the right. Disciples use titles such as BGD (Black Gangster Disciple) or IGD (Insane Gangster Disciple) (*Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989*).

The Disciples study what they call a book of knowledge (See page 17). Their color is black. They have ranks in their organization which fall between thirty three to seventy different ranks. Ranks may be categorizes as Foot Soldiers, Knights, Chiefs, Generals, Princes, Dunns, and Kings. IGD ranks follow those of the Army's; i.e., sergeants, majors, and generals. All ranks have knowledge within the book of knowledge which must be learned in order to gain rank. The gang members must also initiate a certain amount of new members to maintain their rank and status within the gang. Disciple graffiti is easily recognizable. It includes use the six-pointed star, pitch fork and heart with a sword through it or wings along side it. The Disciples, along with other non-gang members, prefer to wear certain type of clothing. The Disciples prefer the L.A. Raiders, L.A. Kings and Nike shoes and outfits. They wear the insignia of these teams due to their meaning within the organization.

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The Vice Lords are the rivals to the Disciples. Their present numbers are hard to determine, however, the are outnumbered by the Disciples ten to one. Vice Lords refer to themselves as "people." They use the five pointed star and a crescent moon in their graffiti. The Vice Lords places their gang items, such as hats, belts and tattoos, to the left. Their colors are black and gold. They prefer to wear the Pittsburgh Pirates hat for two reasons due to the colors and the for the "P" which stands for "people." Hats that have P,V,L or DK which stand for "Disciple Killer." This group has hand signs and ranks similar to those of the Disciples.

The Crips originated in Los Angeles, California. The have no ranks and no formal leadership. The Crips colors are blue. They refer to themselves as "Cuzz." Crips use the initials B/K which stands for "Blood Killers." In their graffiti and writing they will omit the letter "B" and replace it with the letter "C." They will also cross out the letters "B" and "P" in their graffiti to show hatred toward Bloods or Piru. The Crips are broken down into sets or factions. There are approximately 200 hundred different sets that operate within the L.A. area. Crips classify there members as Original Gangsters (OG), Baby Gangsters (BG), and Tiny Gangsters (TG). Crip gang members will wear blue

Gangs

accessories such as L.A. Dodgers caps and shirts. The will

usually pick blue tennis shoes with blue shoelaces.

Another group is the Bloods. They originated in Compton, California and are also referred to as "Piru". They wear the color red. Bloods, unlike the Crips, will not fight among themselves. Bloods will replace the letter "C" in their writings with the letter "B". They will cross out the letter "C" if they use it in their graffiti. Bloods graffiti can be recognized by the color red, and the initials C/K which stands for "Crip Killer". The word Blood is never found in their gang names. The prefer to use the word Piru or call themselves by such names as Outlaws, Bounty Hunters, etc. They have the same type of membership as Crips OG, G, BG, TG.

The following pages will contain hand signs, graffiti and knowledge. Knowledge is the history of a particular gang usually in question and answer form. It will be numbered to indicate status within the gang and members are required to memorize this knowledge. Page 16 is an example of knowledge. If your son or daughter have in their possession or use these types of gang knowledge, hand signs or graffiti you should call your local law enforcement for help.

Knowing something about gangs is essential in helping parents determine their child's involvement. If the parent is knowledgeable and will ask the right questions they may be able to assess the degree of their child's curiosity about gang membership. The informed parents may also be able to tell if their child has picked up the knowledge about gangs in schools, or is seriously involved in gang activity.

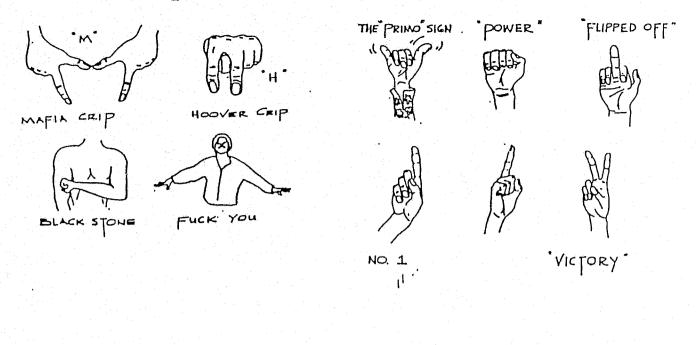
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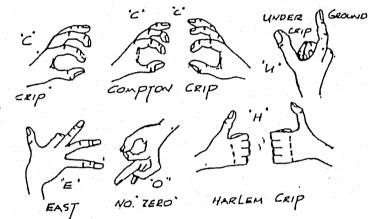
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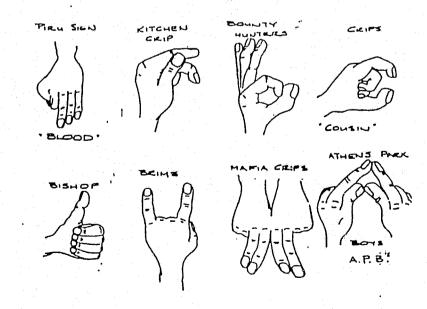
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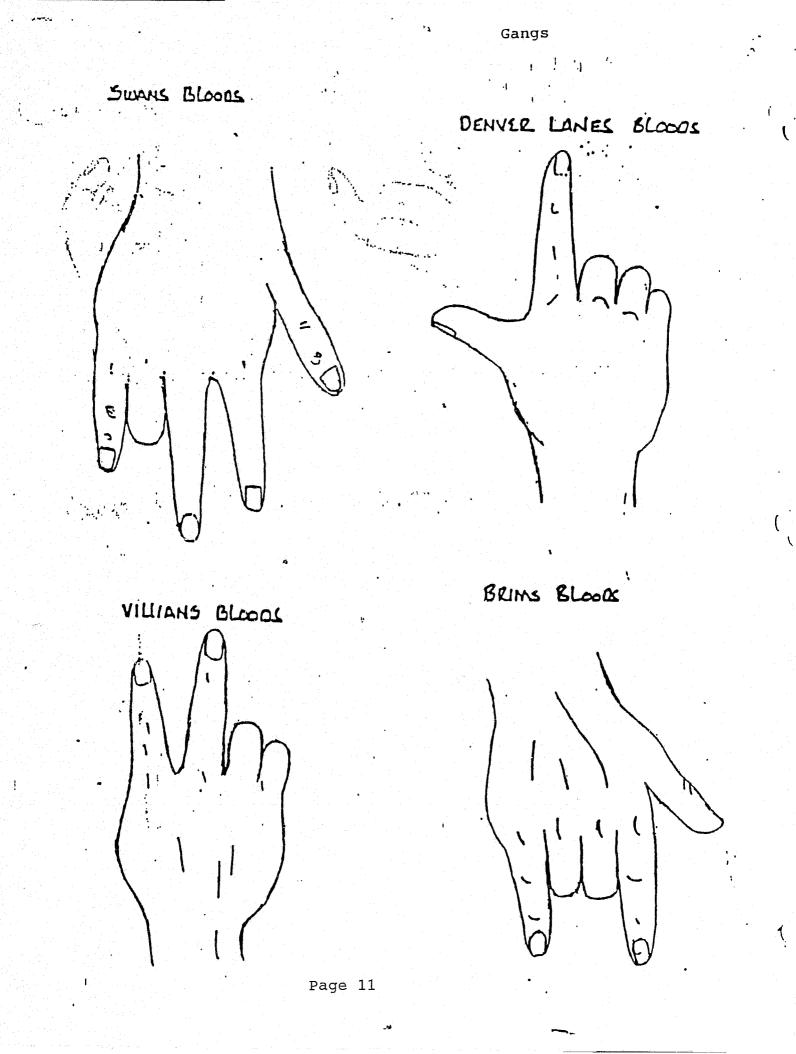
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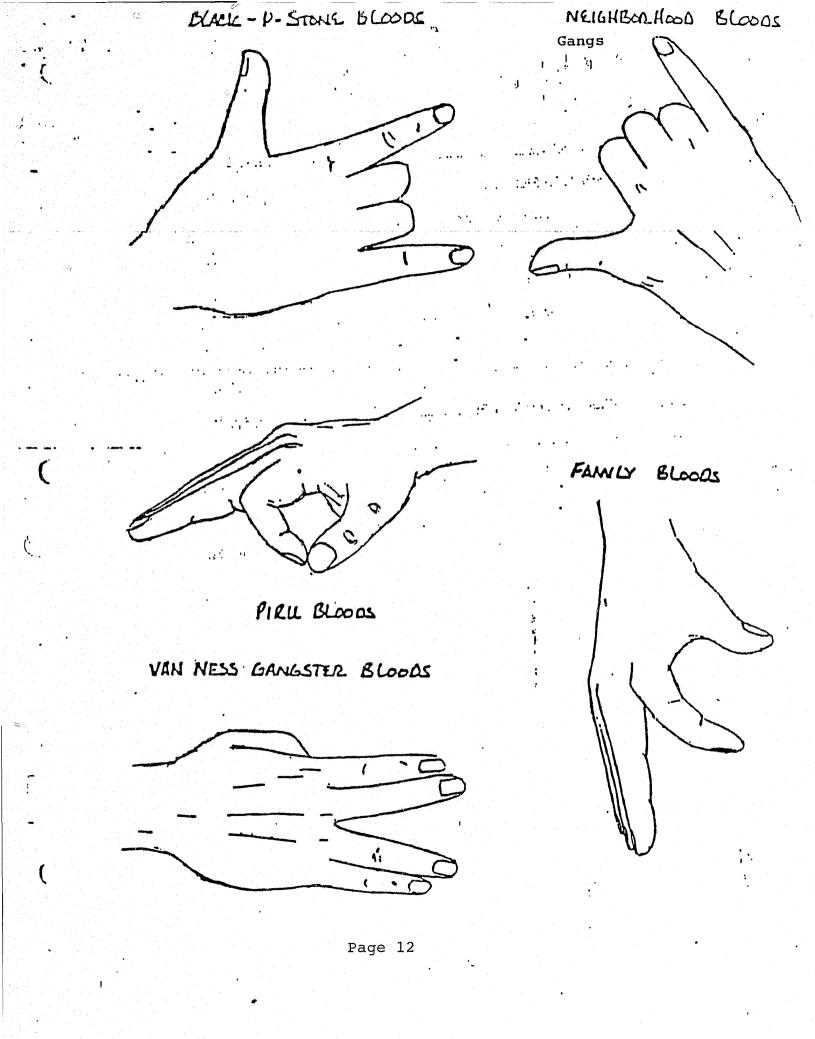
Crip and Blood Hand Signs



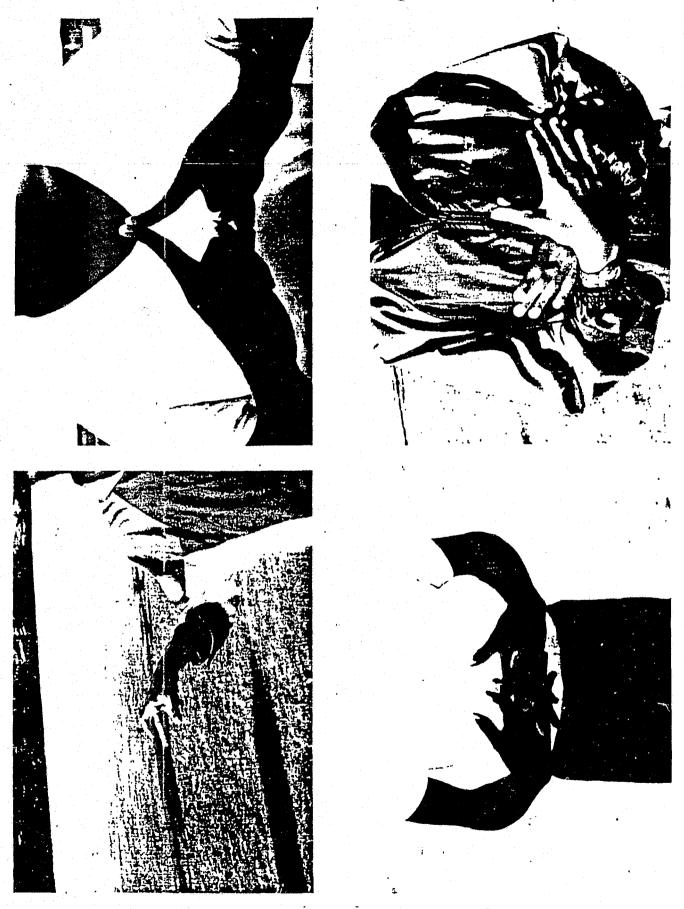








Disciple Hand Signs



Page 13

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Gangs 15 Why is the black prot on the sex point. 15 Why is the black prot on the sex point. That star? showing the death of I of our Kings 16 like put the six point star back tysth? = Koozen 17. Why did hay there turn the ap point atom hadewards? Lecarge so way people avere the pupotorody 18 of I any Ol Dominger you say - K, Kalado for 19. What was David and Home aceting alen they jumped off. the mountan? Knowledge (20 What will happen if we kill satar ? Our vation will 2.1 What if we don't Kill water? the death and goes with 27. If someone says are your a gonater, you any not center of over any so. 23 It takes 63 For 7KS & Knowl a King of his thin 24 Ofter Wand was shot stories, Why did Pores shorthin? Id said it was a dispusse to our water 25 Why is those cometines called the stores " because At he broke up a porg called the stores .: 26. What you be like For 78. I be life a wight stather, stathing in the stariumens, plack is Cathe blue is true, and we shall all meet at the set mate.

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Black Gangster Knowledge Examples

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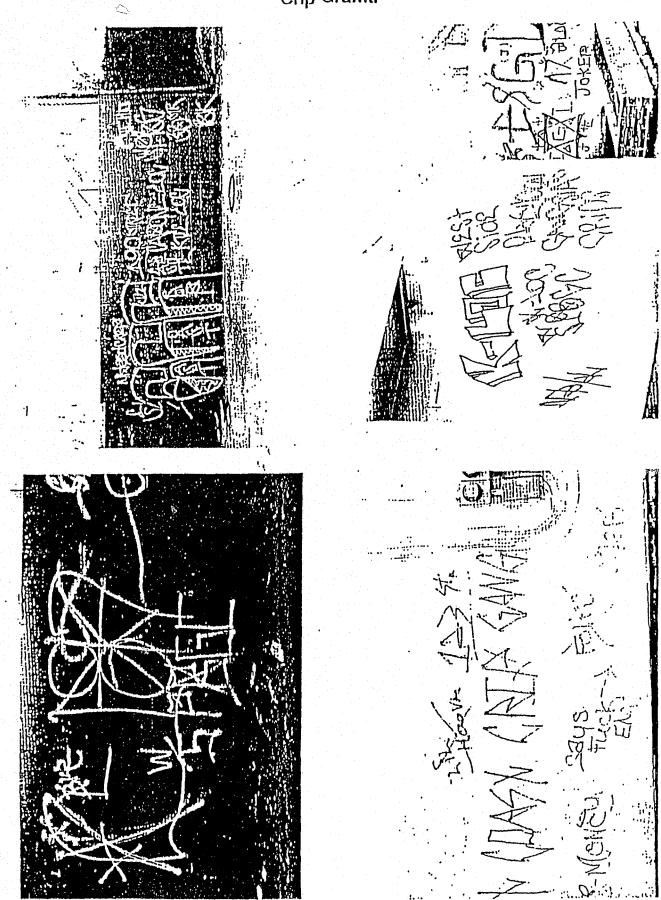
Vice Lords' Knowledge Examples

Dening pray Dening pray that were vice Londs as it says in the holy sible and those who follow the topsteps of the Lind shall always recieve salvation 19639 Black Peace Stone (BPS) Jeff fin fort lead BPS) under the five point star. Love Peace Truth Playbox Wine Bunny Glass. Justice

Disciple Graffiti



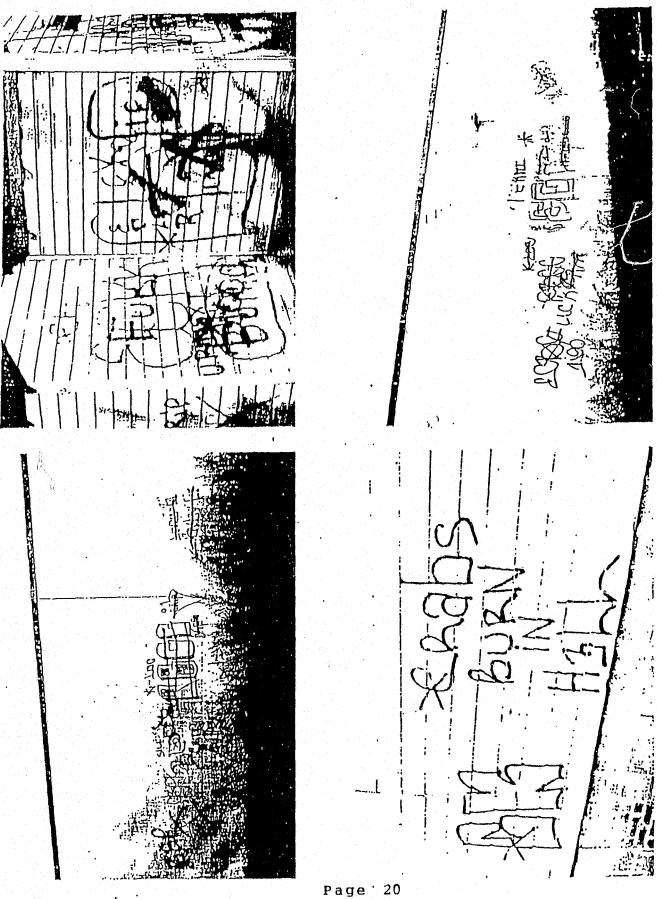
Crip Graffiti



Page 19

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Blood Graffiti



rage 20

How to Identify Gang Members

Admits to gang membership Talks in gang language Gang Tattoos on body Whether they wear a bandanna Article of clothing that is one color Associates with known gang members Commits crimes against other gang members Crimes are committed by multiple subjects Have local hang-outs to initiate and plan activities

Identifying Factors to Gang Involvement

- Knowledge: Knowledge is the history of a particular gang usually in question and answer form. It will be numbered to indicated status within the gang. Gang members are required to memorize this knowledge. Pages 14-16 are examples of Black Gangster knowledge. Knowledge may reveal the rank of the gang member. Knowledge may be numbered; the higher the numbering, the more rank the gang member has obtained.
- Knowledge: Vice Lords' knowledge is similar to Disciple knowledge. Page 17 is an example for the parents viewing.
- Hand-Signs: Gang members use hand-signs to communicate with one another. Disciples, Crips and Blood hand-signs are shown. A child may use them in front of their parents. However, lack of knowledge by parents can make them unaware of their child's activities. Hand-signs are shown on pages 9-12
- *Graffiti*: Graffiti are pictures or drawings that parents may see on their child school books, tattoos, arm or leg cast, or painted on the walls of their homes, and/or child's room. Graffiti is shown on pages 18-20
- Street Gang Language: The final pages consist of street gang language that a child who is involved in gang activity may use. This could be an indication of a child's involvement in gang activities.
 Street gang language is on pages 2657.

Types of Initiation

All gangs will initiate by "beating in" their members. Depending on the gang set, the beating could last from 3 to 5 minutes. The beating entails other gang members hitting the new members anywhere on their bodies for the designated length of time. Disciples will also "bless-in" their members. They do this by placing an imagery six-pointed star on the member's chest and then punching them once in the center of the chest.

Determining Child's Involvement in Gang Activity Parents who initially realize that their son or daughter might be involved in gang activity often deny it. Parents often say that their children could not be a gang member because he/ she never leaves home, always reports their whereabouts, or does not have many friends. Understandably, realizing that one's child may be a gang member is difficult, but denying the problem only compounds it.

How is a parent to know if their child is involved in a gang? One warning sign could be a child who comes home obviously beaten up and refuses to tell what happened. This could indicate that he was initiated into the gang. One should note the date of the occurrence. If a child stays out all night, on a specific nights of the week, he may be attending meetings. Tattoos are another indication. Gang members will tattoo themselves with their gang symbols. Check the child's body for gang tattoos. Question your child if he only wears a certain color and refuses to dress with any other dominant color in his dress. Does he request certain type of team hats or jackets to wear, knowing this may not be a team he likes to watch on television? Note his shoelaces and determine if he has changed them from white to another color, or if he just wants one color tennis shoe. Finally, check his room for gang material and determine if he may have some type of knowledge that he may be studying.

Always try to know your child's regular associates. Gang members from DYS are exporting the gangs into the community. You should be concerned if you suspect that they are associating with these types of individuals.

Family counseling is a must to help stop you child from becoming a gang member. If you suspect these problems, please contact a counselor immediately. Check your yellow pages for counselors in your area. If counseling fails notify the family court so that they individual can be placed on court supervision.

IDENTIFIED CRIP SETS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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CRIP SETS

GANG NAME Acacia Crips Altadena Block Crips Atlantic Crips Avalon Gangster Crip Sets ∧-Line 53 Street 88 Street 116 Street Back Street Crips Beach Town Mafia Crips Bible Crips Boulevard Crips 52 Broadway Gangster Crips Carver Park Crips Compton Crips Compton Westside Crips Corner Pocket Crips Dodge City Crips Durock (Doorah) Crips East Coast Crips 1st East Coast 15 43 11 59 .. 62 11 66 11 68 ţ1 69 11 76 11 89 11 94 11 97 Ĥ. 102 í i 118 н 190 Eight Tray Gangster Crips Fronthood Crips ł Front Street Crips 43 Gangster Crips 53 Gangster Crips 87 Gangster Crips 90 Gangster Crips (W/Side Crips) Geer Street Crips (Geer Crips) Ghost Town Crips Grandee Crips Grape Street Watts Crips Harbor City Crips Harlem 30's Crips Hat Gang Crips

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JURISDICTION Compton P.D. LASD Altadena Compton P.D. L.A.P.D. ... 11 n, ... 11 LASD Firestone Compton P.D. Long Beach P.D. L.A.P.D. LASD Lynwood Compton P.D. LASD Lynwood L.A.P.D. Monrovia P.D./LASD Temple L.A.P.D. 11 11 11 11 11 11 £1-11 ... 11 11 'n 11 ΪŤ LASD Lennox LASD Lynwood L.A.P.D. 11 ŧŧ 11 11 11 1Ĭ Compton P.D. L.A.P.D. LASD Firestone

GANG NAME Hoover Set Crips 43 Hoover H. 52 11 59 Ú, 74 11 83 ... 92 11 94 Ĥ. 107 Π. 112 Imperial Village Crips Insane Crips Kitchen Crips Lantana Block Crips Long Beach Boulevard Mafia Crips Main Street Crips 83 Main Street Crips 98 Main Street Crips Marvin Gangster Crips Menlo Gangster Crips Mona Park Crips Myrtle Street Crips Neighborhood Crip Sets Lynwood II-llood 108 N-Hood 111 N-llood 113 N-llood NBC (Neighborhood Block Crip) Nut Hood Watts Crips Original Valley Gangster Crips Palmer Block Crips Palmdale Gangster Crips Park Village Crips. Payback Crips P.J. Watts Crips Playboy Gangster Crips Raymond Crip Sets Raymond Avenue Crips Inglewood Raymond Crips Pasadena Raymond Crips Rollin 20's Rollin 30's Rollin 40's Rollin 60's Santana Block Crips Schoolyard Crips Shack Boys (76 East Coast Crips) Shotgun Crips Sintown Crips Spooktown Crips

L.A.P.D. 11 11 11 11 LASD Lennox 11. Inglewood PD Long Beach PD LAPD Compton P.D. Long Beach PD LAPD ŦÝ. 11 ... 11 LASD Lynwood Inglewood PD LASD Lynwood LASD Lennox LASD Lynwood Compton PD LVDD Compton PD LASD Antelope Valley Compton PD Gardena PD LAPD LASD Lennox LASD Inglewood Pasadena PD Long Beach PD LAPD 11 Ĥ Compton PD LVDD LASD Firestone Gardena PD Pomona PD Compton PD

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BLOODS

GANG NAME Athens Park Boys **Bishop** Sets Elm Street Bishop Block Bishop 92 Bishop Pueblo Bishop Bounty Hunters Bloodstone Villians Black-P-Stone Blood Fives Belhaven Bloods Brim Sets 62 Brims Aliso Village Brims 59 Brims Rollin 20's Brims Carson Cabbage Patch Crenshaw Mafia Gang Denver Lane Sets Pasadena Denver Lanes Pasadena Devil Lanes Denver Lanes 89 Family Blood ŧ. Harvard Park Hacienda Village Inglewood Family Blood Miller Gangsters Piru Sets Pomona Islands Piru Campancilla Park Piru Cedar Block Piru Centerview Piru Cross Atlantic Piru Compton Piru Circle City Piru Fruit Town Piru ł Holly Hood Piru Leuder Park Piru Lime Hood Piru Nutty Block Piru Swan Sets 77 Swans 11 79 11 80 11 83 Samoan Warriors Ujima Village Blood Van Ness Gangsters

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BLACK STREET GANG LANGUAGE

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MEANING TERM CONFRONTED JAMMED MARIJUANA JOINT LACED WITH JIM JONES COCAINE AND DIPPED IN PCP VEHICLE HAS HYDRAULICS TO RAISE JULCED LIFTS AND LOWER CAR GIVE YOU SOMETHING, SET YOU KICK YOU DOWN UP IN THE DRUG TRADE KIBBLES AND BITS CRUMBS OF COCAINE KOOL ITS ALRIGHT GIRLFRIEND LADY UGLY GIRL LIZARD BUTT DARK SUN GLASSES LOC MAN COP WANT TO BE GANG MEMBER MARK . PROPER NICE LOOKING MOBILE EMBARRASSED MOLDED SCRATCH MONTE CARLO VEHICLE MONTE C UGLY GIRL MUD DUCK NUT UP ANGRY ORIGINAL GANGSTER OG FREE BASING COCAINE ON THE PIPE BASED ON THESE FACTS ON THE STRENGTH ONE TIME POLICE GANG MEMBER WITH GUN PACKING CRIP DISRESPECT TOWARD BLOODS PEANUT BUTTER EAST COAST TERM FOR GANG POSSE TELLING THE TRUTH FUT THAT ON THE SET COLOR OF GANG RAG LOOKING FOR GOOD LOOKING GIRL RECRUITING HARD STARE RED EYE BLOOD TERM FOR HOME BOY RELATIVE

BLACK STREET GANG LANGUAGE

TERM	MEANING
DYS	DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES
BGD	BLACK GANGSTER DISCIPLES
IGD	INSANE GANGSTER DISCIPLES
KNOWLEDGE	DISCIPLES QUESTION AND ANSWERS
DQ	DISCIPLE QUEENS
GQ	GANGSTER QUEENS
YGD	YOUNG GANGSTER DISCIPLES
RAIDERS	RUTHLESS ASS INSANE DISCIPLES
	ELIMINATE RED SLOB
KINGS	KILLING INNOCENT NIGGERS
Kanoo -	GANGSTER STYLE
FOLKS	NICKNAME FOR DISCIPLE MEMBERS
FEOPLE	NICKNAME FOR VICE LORD MEMBERS
GGD :	GHOST GANGSTER DISCIPLES
	DISCIPLE KILLER
	BLOOD KILLER
BK	CRIP KILLER
СК	GANGSTER
G	BABY GANGSTER
BG	TINY GANGSTER
TG	FENAL CODE FOR MURDER IN THE
187	
	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
JUVENILE	PERSON UNDER AGE 18
DELINQUENT	PERSON UNDER 18 WHO COMMITS
	ILLEGAL ACTIVITY
DISCIPLE	GANG THAT STARTED IN CHICAGO
VICE LORD	GANG THAT STARTED IN CHICAGO
CRIP	GANG THAT STARTED IN LOS ANGELES
BLOOD	GANG THAT STARTED IN LOS ANGELES
ΜΙΛΜΙ	MAKING INSANE ASS MORE INSANE
K SWISS	KILLING SLOBS WHEN I SEE SOME

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