

Children
Can't Learn
Until Their
Parents
Have Been
Taught.

GANG AWARENESS

WHAT IS A GANG?

- A GANG CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY OR MAY NOT CLAIM CONTROL OVER A CERTAIN TERRITORY IN THE COMMUNITY AND ENGAGE AS A GROUP OR INDIVIDUALLY IN VIOLENT OR OTHER FORMS OF ILLEGAL CONDUCT.
- SIMPLY PUT, THE GANG IS A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO FORM AN ALLIANCE FOR A COMMON PURPOSE AND ENGAGE IN VIOLENT OR UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY.
- PENAL CODE CHAPTER 71.
- 71.01(a) “COMBINATION” MEANS THREE OR MORE PERSONS WHO COLLABORATE IN CARRYING ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES
- AVERAGE AGE IS 14 TO 21 YEARS OLD. GANG MEMBERS MAY BE AS YOUNG AS 9 AND INTO THEIR 30’S IN SOME CASES.

WHY DO KIDS JOIN GANGS?

- ◆ **TO BELONG TO A GROUP (FEEL WANTED)**
- ◆ **FOR EXCITEMENT (COMMITTING CRIMES AND NOT GETTING CAUGHT, GANGSTER IMAGE)**
- ◆ **FOR PROTECTION (FROM OTHER GANGS, BIGGER KIDS)**
- ◆ **TO EARN MONEY (SELL OF NARCOTICS, ROBBERIES, BURGLARY)**
- ◆ **PEER PRESSURE (DO WHAT FRIENDS ARE DOING)**
- ◆ **ACCEPTANCE (FROM FRIENDS WHO ARE IN THE GANG)**
- ◆ **TO SOCIALIZE (GET GIRLS, INVITED TO PARTIES)**

WHAT SIGNS SHOULD I LOOK FOR?

A PARENT'S GUIDE

- Ø MAJOR AND NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR CHANGES

- Ø HANGING WITH KNOWN OR SUSPECTED GANG MEMBERS

- Ø WEARING GANG CLOTHING

- Ø GANG HAND SIGNS

- Ø GANG TATTOOS

- Ø CARRYING WEAPONS

- Ø POSSESSING UNEXPLAINED / FAIRLY LARGE SUMS OF MONEY (SELLING DRUGS / CRIMES)

- Ø GANG GRAFFITI

MAJOR AND NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR CHANGES

- **ADMITS TO GANG MEMBERSHIP**
- **WITHDRAWS FROM FAMILY MEMBERS**
- **BREAKS PARENTAL RULES
CONSISTENTLY**
- **GRADES HAVE DROPPED/TROUBLE AT
SCHOOL**
- **LACK OF HOBBIES OR INTERESTS**
- **DEVELOPS AN UNUSUAL DESIRE FOR
PRIVACY / SECRECY**
- **OBSESSED WITH GANGSTER
RAP/VIDEOS/MOVIES**
- **POSSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL / DRUGS**
- **HANGING WITH KNOWN OR SUSPECTED
GANG MEMBERS**
- **FREQUENT NEGATIVE CONTACT WITH
POLICE**

WHAT CAN I DO AS A PARENT?

- Ø TALK AND LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD
- Ø SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR CHILDREN
- Ø PUT A HIGH VALUE ON EDUCATION
- Ø IDENTIFY WITH POSITIVE ROLE MODELS / HEROES
- Ø INVOLVED YOUR CHILDREN IN POSITIVE GROUP ACTIVITIES
- Ø PRAISE THEM FOR DOING WELL / ENCOURAGE THEM
- Ø GET TO KNOW YOUR CHILDREN'S FRIENDS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- Ø SET THE EXAMPLE / BE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE
- Ø TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT GANGS / DISCOURAGE PARTICIPATION