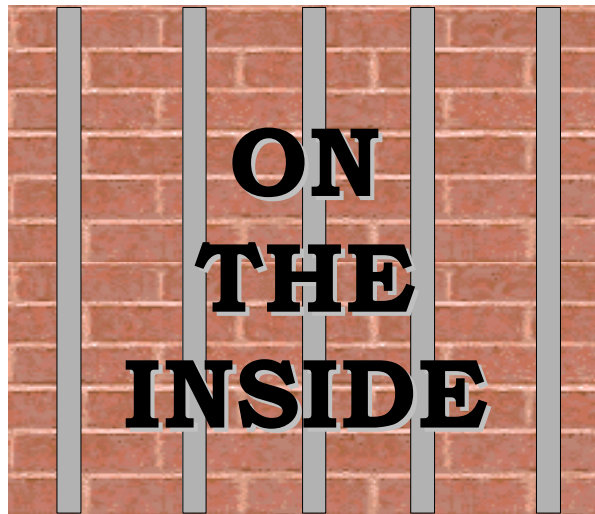

Security Threat Groups



Texas
Department of
Criminal
Justice



The following are frequently asked questions and answers regarding Security Threat Groups (prison gangs), which should assist in giving some insight to an offender's family and friends about the dangers of getting involved with a Security Threat Group while incarcerated in TDCJ-CID.

What is a Security Threat Group (STG)?

Any group of offenders TDCJ reasonably believes poses a threat to the physical safety of other offenders and staff due to the very nature of said Security Threat Group.

TDCJ recognizes 12 Security Threat Groups:

1. Aryan Brotherhood of Texas
2. Aryan Circle
3. Barrio Azteca
4. Bloods
5. Crips
6. Hermanos De Pistoleros Latinos
7. Mexican Mafia
8. Partido Revolucionario Mexicanos
9. Raza Unida
10. Texas Chicano Brotherhood
11. Texas Mafia
12. Texas Syndicate

Why does an offender join an STG?

Some offenders join an STG in an effort to exert influence and take advantage of other offenders. They use any means necessary in an attempt to control their environment regardless of who gets hurt.

Offenders may believe they need to join a gang for protection, but this is an inaccurate belief. By joining a gang, they put themselves in more danger because the rivals of their fellow gang members have also become their enemies.

What are indicators of STG membership?

Although STG members strive to keep all of their activities secret, including not informing family and friends of their ties to the gangs, many STG members put on specific gang tattoos and use hand signs.

They also use terminology specific to their respective gangs in correspondence and often utilize friends and family members to forward gang-related information.

This could result in loss of correspondence and visitation privileges with participants.

How do STGs recruit offenders?

There are various ways that STGs will attempt to persuade an offender to join. Many use the leverage of protection to join. Many join for financial support. Others join in an effort to try to control their environment. Many join because they have a need to belong or to be accepted. Many offenders feel that their family, friends or loved ones have lost “respect” for them due to being sent to prison. As a result, the gang acts as a family and gives these offenders a false sense of belonging. Only when the offender is threatened or ordered to do something illegal does he realize what a gang is really about. What happens if your son/daughter joins a STG while incarcerated?

- Not allowed to have contact visits.
- Number of visits allowed can be affected.
- Not allowed to participate in any academic activity.
- Not allowed to participate in any vocational activity.
- Consideration for emergency absences is not given.
- Diligent participation in good time credits is not given.
- Not allowed to work.
- Restricted movement.
- Placement in Administrative Segregation.
- State and local law enforcement agencies are notified upon release.
- Parole release could be affected.

What is Administrative Segregation?

A non-punitive status involving separation of an offender from the general population for the purpose of maintaining safety, security, and order among offenders and staff.

What can an STG do to your family if your son/daughter joins?

Though Security Threat Groups call themselves a family and claim to be family-oriented, they may:

- Demand money from your family.
- Harm you or your family if you fail to follow orders.
- Force you to support illegal activities and possibly subject you to arrest.
- Make your family subject to violence from Security Threat Groups.

Following his release from prison, an STG member and/or his family and friends could face the following:

- Becoming a victim of STG-related violence.
- STG members possibly bringing illegal activities to their residence.
- Perhaps being subjected to intense scrutiny regarding employment matters and/or matters concerning law enforcement officials.

Can someone get out of an STG?

Yes, but extreme caution is necessary to insure not only the safety of the offender, but others as well. The offender must successfully complete the Gang Renouncement and Disassociation (GRAD) process before being reclassified as an ex-STG member and reviewed for general population status.

What must an offender do to get out of a STG?

1. An offender must contact the Security Threat Group Officer (STGO) at the unit level in writing and renounce his membership and affiliation with the STG.
2. The STGO will then interview and investigate the offender's claims of disassociation. Upon completion of the investigation, the STGO will submit a recommendation to the STGMO located in Huntsville, Texas.

The STGMO in Huntsville will make the final decision regarding the eligibility of the offender for placement into the GRAD process.

Who can the offender contact regarding his/her STG status?

The STG officer on the unit to which the offender is assigned and/or the Regional Coordinator for that unit. Telephone numbers and addresses for Regional Coordinators are listed below:

STG Management Office
(936) 437-8445
POB 99, Huntsville TX 77320-0099

Region 1 STG Coordinator
(936) 437-1774
1225 Avenue G, Huntsville TX 77340

Region 2 STG Coordinator
(903) 928-2623
POD 400, Tennessee Colony TX 75861

Region 3 STG Coordinator
(281) 369-3736
400 Darrington Rd, Rosharon TX 77583

Region 4 STG Coordinator
(361) 362-6456
965 Ofstie St., Beeville TX 78102-8986

Region 5 STG Coordinator
(806) 296-4541
304 W. 6th St., Plainview TX 79072

Region 6 STG Coordinator
(512) 671-2593
4616 W. Howard Ln. #200, Austin TX 78728

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