

Operation Home Front at the Elgin Police Department

The goal of the Operation Home Front is to identify gang members as early as possible, inform parents of their child's possible involvement with gangs, educate parents on the warning signs of possible gang involvement, and to confiscate contraband.



A referral will be made to the Social Service unit at the Elgin Police Department if officers locate contraband and/or gang indicia.

The Social Services Unit will provide information regarding gang intervention strategies and additional resources for parents. Social workers will follow up with both the juvenile and the parents in individual counseling sessions.

To contact social services, call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at: (847) 289-2686.

Parental Responsibility

The parents of children involved in gang activity can be held criminally or civilly responsible for the actions of their child. The Elgin Police Department aggressively enforces laws regarding parental responsibility when parent do not actively take steps to prevent their child's participation in gang activity and other criminal activity. In addition to State Laws, the City of Elgin also has local ordinances relating to parental responsibility including but not limited to potential penalties against parents for their children's curfew violations, truancy, possession of weapons, air rifles, fireworks, drugs or alcohol. This includes parents who allow underage drinking parties in their homes. Curfew for children under 17 is 11pm on weekdays and midnight on Friday and Saturday. See Elgin Municipal codes: 10.66, 10.41, 10.42 and 10.44.



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ELGIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

GUIDE TO GANGS



Gang Crimes Unit
847-289-2691

What is a Gang?

A gang is defined as a group of three or more people with an established hierarchy who engage in a course or pattern of criminal activity. There is unity and loyalty among members, especially in conflict situations. Established authority is disrespected, and a lack of conventional morality and independence is highly emphasized.

Members display anti-social and criminal behavior. They band together against rival gangs and law enforcement, and they often mark their neighborhood with gang graffiti.

Common Gang Identifiers

GANG-STYLE CLOTHING AND DRESS:

- Styles can identify affiliation
- Examples include
 - a bandana worn only in specific colors
 - t-shirts with prison scenes
 - graffiti or slogans
 - multicolored bead necklaces

COLORS: Many gangs use one or more colors as a symbol to represent the gang. The colors may be worn on multiple clothing items and accessories.

GRAFFITI: Gangs use graffiti to mark their territory, mourn fallen members, or challenge rival gangs.



SYMBOLS AND NUMBERS: Symbols and numbers may also be used to indicate gang affiliation.

- Common Symbols: stars, crowns, pitchforks, numbers, & three dots in a triangle



Example of Gang Indicia

TATTOOS: Tattoos are used to show loyalty to one's gang. These tattoos often include the name, initials, or symbols of the specific gang.

HAND SIGNS: Some gangs use specific hand gestures to communicate their affiliation with the gang.

GANG-INFLUENCED MUSIC & MOVIES: Interest in gangs through fascination with music and movies that glorify gang-culture.

Clothing & trends change and vary from place to place; one identifier alone does not mean gang affiliation, but parents should be cautious and watch for more signs.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Are girls involved in gangs in Elgin?

Yes, most gangs have a female counterpart. These are usually the girlfriends of gang members.

Is there a connection between Elgin gangs and the Chicago gangs?

It has been determined that the Elgin gangs do have strong ties with Chicago gangs. Former members who have moved to Elgin from Chicago seem to have helped gangs become established.

Why should we be concerned?

Many gang members allow their ties to their gangs to become stronger than their ties to their families, churches, schools, and communities.

My child swears he/she doesn't belong to a gang, yet he/she seems to display gang affiliation. Should I be concerned?

A gang member will often deny or play down his/her involvement in a gang because the gang is supposed to be a secretive organization.