

Gangs 101: What We All Should Know

Juvenile Crime Intervention Section
Criminal Prosecutions Division
Attorney General of Texas

Gangs 101: What Everyone Should Know - A graphics-driven training curriculum that covers a wide variety of gang-related issues, including the psychology of gang recruitment, the structure of the gang culture, common gang identifiers and graffiti awareness.

Course Outline:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Speaker
 - B. Juvenile Crime Intervention, Office of the Attorney General
 - C. Attorney General's "Gangs in Texas" report
 - D. Gang Resource System web site (for law enforcement use only)
- II. Definition of gangs
 - A. Section 71.01(d), Texas Penal Code
 - B. Range of criminal activity
 - C. Gang statistics for Texas
- III. Reasons juveniles join gangs
 - A. Unmet personal needs
 - B. Survival
 - C. Cultural issues
- IV. Gang structure
 - A. Gang nations
 - 1. Crips vs. Bloods
 - 2. People vs. Folk
 - 3. Surenos vs. Nortenos
 - 4. Inter-nation alliances
 - B. Sets
 - 1. Local sets of nations
 - 2. Homegrown gangs
 - C. Other groups
 - 1. Hate-based gangs
 - 2. Asian gangs
 - 3. South and Central American gangs
- V. Gang identifiers
 - A. Symbols
 - B. Clothing

- C. Hand signs
- D. Colors
- E. Tattoos
- F. Graffiti
- VI. Graffiti and tagging
 - A. Gang graffiti
 - B. Tagging
 - C. Tagbanging
- VII. Trends
 - A. Girls and gangs
 - B. Multi-ethnic gangs
 - C. Younger juveniles
 - D. Weapons
 - E. Internet
- VIII. Prevention
 - A. Parents
 - B. Schools
 - C. Community
- IX. Conclusion
 - A. Questions
 - B. Publications and resources
 - C. Contact information for Juvenile Crime Intervention

“Gangs 101: What We All Need To Know” - Training Objectives:

1. To learn about “criminal street gangs” in Texas including: Legal definition, range of criminal activities, and other related statistics.
2. To gain an understanding of reasons why Texas juveniles join criminal street gangs.
3. To comprehend the structure of criminal street gangs in Texas including: Major gang nations and sets as well as other groups classified as criminal street gangs.
4. To recognize the identifiers for Texas criminal street gangs including: Symbols, clothing, hand signs, colors and tattoos.
5. To be able to distinguish types of gang graffiti and tagging in Texas.
6. To identify changing trends in Texas criminal street gangs including: Changing role of females in gang culture, the emergence of hybrid gangs, increasingly younger-aged gang members, and new variants of the traditional street gang.
7. To explore the role that the Internet plays in gang culture.
8. To comprehend strategies for use by parents, schools, and communities in preventing gang involvement by Texas youth.

**Texas Attorney General's Office
Gang Resource System
Web Site**

**For additional information,
please contact:
Juvenile Crime Intervention
Texas Attorney General's Office
P.O. Box 12548, M/C 048
Austin, TX 78711-2548
(512) 463-4024
e-mail: gangs@oag.state.tx.us**

Art. 61.11. Gang Resource System
Code of Criminal Procedure

Text of article as added by Acts 1999, 76th Regular Legislative Session

(a) The office of the attorney general shall establish an electronic gang resource system to provide criminal justice agencies and juvenile justice agencies with information about criminal street gangs in the state. The system may include the following information with regard to any gang:

- (1) gang name;
- (2) gang identifiers, such as colors used, tattoos, and clothing preferences;
- (3) criminal activities;
- (4) migration trends;
- (5) recruitment activities; and
- (6) a local law enforcement contact.

(b) Upon request by the office of the attorney general, criminal justice agencies and juvenile justice agencies shall make a reasonable attempt to provide gang information to the office of the attorney general for the purpose of maintaining an updated, comprehensive gang resource system.

(c) The office of the attorney general shall cooperate with criminal justice agencies and juvenile justice agencies in collecting and maintaining the accuracy of the information included in the gang resource system.

(d) Information relating to the identity of a specific offender or alleged offender may not be maintained in the gang resource system.

(e) Information in the gang resource system may be used in investigating gang-related crimes but may be included in affidavits or subpoenas or used in connection with any other legal or judicial proceeding only if the information from the system is corroborated by information not provided or maintained in the system.

(f) Access to the gang resource system shall be limited to criminal justice agency personnel and juvenile justice agency personnel.

(g) Information in the gang resource system shall be accessible by:

- (1) municipality or county; and
- (2) gang name.

(h) The office of the attorney general may coordinate with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to include information in the gang resource system regarding groups which have been identified by the Security Threat Group Management Office of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Office of the Texas Attorney General Gang Resource System (GRS) Web Site

What is it?

Article 61.11, Code of Criminal Procedure

- ◆ The 76th Legislature mandated that the Attorney General's Office "[maintain] an updated, comprehensive gang resource system."
- ◆ This secure web site is designed to identify and monitor criminal street gangs and Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Security Threat Groups.
- ◆ The resource system also promotes the sharing of general gang information and interagency cooperation.

How can it help?

- ◆ Coordinated effort among statewide law enforcement agencies
- ◆ Communication and interagency cooperation
- ◆ Strategies for intervention and suppression
- ◆ Instant access to current information
- ◆ Training tool for departments

Who has access?

Criminal justice agencies

- ◆ Federal or state agencies that are "engaged in the administration of criminal justice under a statute or executive order and [allocate] a substantial part of [their] annual budget to the administration of criminal justice" (Art. 60.01(6), CCP)
- ◆ "[M]unicipal or county [agencies], or school district law enforcement [agencies], that [are] engaged in the administration of criminal justice under a statute or executive order" (Art. 61.01(5), CCP)
- ◆ "A non-governmental railroad or campus police department that has obtained an originating agency identifier from the Federal Bureau of Investigation" (Sec. 411.082(3)(B), GC)

Juvenile justice agencies

- ◆ Agencies that have "custody or control over juvenile offenders" (Sec. 58.101(5), FC)

What information is included?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ◆ Gang name | ◆ Preferred weapons |
| ◆ Type of gang | ◆ Criminal activity |
| ◆ Geographic area/turf | ◆ Enemies and alliances |
| ◆ Demographic and historical data | ◆ Recruitment activities and techniques |
| ◆ Identifiers (colors, clothing, tattoos, graffiti, etc.) | ◆ Migration patterns and routes |
| ◆ Terminology/slang | ◆ Prosecution and disposition |
| | ◆ Local agency contact |

What information is excluded?

"Information relating to the identity of a specific offender or alleged offender may **not** be maintained in the gang resource system." (Art. 61.11(d), CCP)

Who do I contact for more information about the web site?

For additional information about the Gang Resource System, or to submit gang information or request a secure ID for access, please contact the Juvenile Crime Intervention Section at the Office of the Attorney General, P.O. Box 12548, Austin, TX 78711-2548, or call (512) 463-4024. You may also reach us by e-mail at: gangs@oag.state.tx.us.

TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S GANG RESOURCE SYSTEM APPLICATION FOR SECURE ID

Access to the Gang Resource System is limited to criminal justice agency and juvenile justice agency personnel (art. 61.11(f), CCP). Information in the Gang Resource System may be used to investigate gang-related crimes. However, if information from the Gang Resource System is included in affidavits or subpoenas, or used in connection with any other legal or judicial proceeding, it must be corroborated by information not provided or maintained in the system (art. 61.11(e), CCP). **This computer system is for the official use of the State of Texas. All other use is prohibited and will be prosecuted pursuant to §§ 33.01 to 33.04 (PC).**

*Please complete all information requested on the following form. This information will be used to verify that you are permitted to access the Gang Resource System. **Incomplete applications will be returned.***

Name: _____
(First) (Middle Initial) (Last)

Agency/Department: _____

Title/Position: _____

Agency/Department Address: _____
(Street or PO Box)

Agency Phone: () _____ Agency Fax: () _____
(City) (County) (State) (Zip Code)

E-mail Address (if applicable): _____

Personnel/Human Resources Department Phone: () _____

Employee ID Number/Badge Number*: _____ SSN*: _____ - _____ - _____

Alternate Mailing Address: _____
(Street or PO Box)

(if applicable) _____
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Signature)

(Date)

For security reasons, please return completed application to:

Office of the Attorney General, Juvenile Crime Intervention
ATTN: Gang Resource System Application
P. O. Box 12548, Austin, Texas 78711

or

FAX: (512) 480-9186

* These numbers will be used to verify your identity in the event you need to contact us regarding your account.

For Internal Use Only

HR: _____

Date: _____

OAG: _____

ID/PW: _____