

# WARNING SIGNS YOUR CHILD MAYBE INVOLVED IN A GANG

*Parents should look for multiple signs to indicate whether their child may be involved in a gang.*

- Admits to "hanging out" with kids in gangs.
- Shows an unusual interest in one or two particular colors of clothing or a particular logo.
- The child dresses in the same color clothing every day or wears tattoos, unusual jewelry, hairstyles, or clothing that could identify a particular gang.
- Has an unusual interest in gangster-influenced music, videos, movies or websites.
- Uses unusual hand signals to communicate with friends.
- Comes home with unexplained physical injuries (fighting-related bruises, injuries to hands/knuckles).
- Has unexplained cash or goods, such as clothing or jewelry.
- The child is carrying guns, knives or other weapons.
- Has been in trouble with the police.
- Exhibits negative changes in behavior such as:
  - ✓ Withdrawing from family, like avoiding family gatherings and poor family relationship.
  - ✓ Declining school attendance, performance and behavior.
- Exhibiting signs of drug use.
- Breaking rules consistently.
- Rebelling at school and home.
- Speaking in gang-style slang.

- Changing friends, especially if the new group of friends don't hang around at your home
- There's a marked change in the child's habits or personality.
- You find evidence of or suspect drug or alcohol abuse.
- You observe the child using unusual hand signs, nicknames or street language.
- You observe strange symbols or graffiti on notebooks and folders.
- The child obtains money without your knowledge.