

## What can I do to prevent gang involvement by my child?

- Get involved in your child's school activities.
- Be a positive role model and set the right example.
- Know your child's friends and their families.
- Encourage good study habits.
- Teach your children how to cope with peer pressure.
- Help your child develop good conflict-resolution skills.
- Encourage your child to participate in positive after-school activities like recreation centers and organized sports.
- Join or create a neighborhood watch association.
- Report and remove graffiti.
- Listen to your child's concerns about gangs.
- Talk to your child about the dangers and consequences of gang involvement.
- Let your child know that you don't want to see him or her arrested.
- Explain to your child that he or she should not:
  - » Associate with gang members.
  - » Attend gang-related social events.
  - » Use hand signs or symbols associated with gangs.

## Gangs Impact the Entire Community –

### Be a Part of the Solution

- Learn to identify the signs of gang activity.
- Give children the love and attention they deserve.
- Provide youth with positive alternatives to gang involvement.
- Work with law enforcement and other concerned citizens in gang prevention efforts.
- Project a clear message that gangs won't be tolerated in **our** communities.

**GANGS** are luring away our children with false promises of safety and protection.

**GANGS** offer a deceptive sense of family and belonging. Young people do not realize this relationship comes with a price... until it's too late. Upon entering the gang, our children are forced to commit violent and illegal acts. This places them at risk of imprisonment and death.

*Provided by:*

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## What You Should Know About **GANGS**

# GANG FREE

# ~~GANGS~~

# KANSAS



It's **YOUR** Choice.

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## Why do people join gangs?

- Attention – either negative or positive
- Desire for friendship or belonging
- Peer pressure
- Low self-esteem
- Respect/Desire to be recognized
- Fear/Need for protection
- Sense of power
- Love
- Family tradition
- Excitement
- Access to drugs, guns, sex and money
- Family problems at home
- Inadequate adult supervision
- Fad/Media glamorization of gang lifestyle



## What are the signs of gang involvement?

- Hanging out with a new group of friends
- Showing a change in behavior or personality
- Abusing alcohol or other drugs
- Bruising or frequent injuries
- Using unusual hand signs, nicknames or street language
- Carrying guns, knives or other weapons
- Writing strange symbols (graffiti) on notebooks or folders
- Withdrawing from family members or friends
- Having trouble at school with grades or discipline
- Obtaining money or valuables without your knowledge
- Wearing tattoos, jewelry, hair styles or clothing that identify with a particular gang



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