

ABOUT THE SAFE HOME PROGRAM

The Hanover Park Safe Home Program is an intervention strategy, the goals of which are to identify gang membership or potential gang membership at an early stage, educate parents as to the warning signs of gang involvement, identify resources for parents to use, increase communication between parents and the Police Department.

A referral will be made to the Social Worker with the Hanover Park Police Department if officers locate indicators of gang involvement.

The Police Social Worker will provide information regarding gang intervention strategies and additional resources for parents. The Social Worker will follow-up with both the juvenile and the parent in individual counseling sessions.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The parents of children involved in gang activity can be held criminally or civilly responsible for the actions of their child. The Hanover Park Police Department aggressively enforces laws regarding parental responsibility when parents do not actively take steps to prevent their child's participation in gang activity and other criminal activity.

In addition to state laws, the Village of Hanover Park also has local ordinances relating to parental responsibility. Parents are expected to exercise reasonable control to prevent their child from committing any delinquent act. Examples of delinquent acts include but are not limited to curfew violations, truancy, possession of weapons, air rifles, fireworks, drugs or alcohol.

The Penalty for violating this ordinance is a minimum fine of \$100. See Hanover Park Municipal Code Section 66-31 and 66-46.

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HANOVER PARK POLICE

2011 Lake St.
Hanover Park, IL 60133

Phone: 630-823-5500



Hanover Park Police Department

Michael Menough, Chief of Police

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Research indicates that parents play an integral part in keeping children out of gangs. Gangs can provide things children may not get at home or elsewhere – acceptance, structure, money, activities, companionship, and even love. You can help prevent gang involvement by ensuring all your children's needs are met in some other way. Children need their parents and guardians to be involved in their growth and development. The best defense against gangs begins in the home.

COMMON GANG IDENTIFIERS

GANG-STYLE CLOTHING AND DRESS: Gang members may use clothing styles to identify with a particular gang. This can include clothing and bandanas worn only in certain colors that represent a specific gang.

Other clothing that may be indicative of gang affiliation include: t-shirts with prison scenes, graffiti, or slogans; or multi-colored bead necklaces; however, gang clothing trends change and differ from place to place, so clothing alone may not be enough to indicate gang affiliation.

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

SYMBOLS AND NUMBERS: Symbols and numbers may have significance to a specific gang. A few common symbols from gangs in the Hanover Park are stars, crowns, pitchforks, three dots in a triangle, the letters LK and numbers.

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

gangs. While it is not solely indicative of gang activity, parents should use caution if their child is participating in graffiti.

TATTOOS: Tattoos are used to show loyalty to his/her 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: Youths may show interest in gangs through fascination with music and movies that glorify gang-cultures.

BEHAVIORS ASSOCIATED WITH JOINING A GANG

Negative changes in behavior, such as:

- ◆ Withdrawing from family
- ◆ Declining school attendance/performance
- ◆ Unusual desire for secrecy
- ◆ Confrontational behavior, such as talking back, verbal abuse, name calling, and disrespect for authority.
- ◆ Sudden negative opinions about law enforcement.
- ◆ Change in attitude about school, church, or other normal activities.

Unusual interest in particular colors or symbols.

Peculiar drawings or gang symbols on schoolbooks, clothing, walls, or notebooks

Suspected drug use.

Presence of firearms or other weapons

Non-accidental injuries such as being beaten or injuries to hands and knuckles from fighting.

Withdrawal from long-time friends and forming bonds with an entirely new group of friends.

Unexplained cash or goods, such as jewelry or clothes.

- ◆ Talk to your children about gangs
- ◆ Tell your children not to:
- Associate with gang members

- Hang out where gangs congregate
- Use any kind of hand or finger signs that may be meaningful to gangs.
- Wear clothing that may have meaning to gangs in your area.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

◆ Get to know your children's friends and the friends' parents. Be aware of their attitudes towards drugs, alcohol, gangs. Pressure to join gangs comes from their friends.

◆ Talk to your children about ways to deal with pressure from friends. Help your children practice simple ways to respond to peer pressure.

◆ Set firm limits with your children and teens. Children and teenagers need to know clearly what is expected of them and the consequences for acting otherwise. Do not rescue your children from consequences.

Plan family time. Make time for your family to play, eat meals together, take trips, keep family traditions, and have family meetings to talk about plans, feelings and complaints.

