



COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Danielle Mullen – Crime Prevention Unit

WARNING SIGNS THAT YOUR CHILD MAY BE INVOLVED WITH A GANG:

1. Admits to “hanging out” with kids in gangs.
2. Shows an unusual interest in one or two particular colors of clothing or a particular logo.
3. Has an unusual interest in gangster influenced music, videos, movies or websites.
4. Uses unusual hand signs to communicate with friends
5. Has specific drawings or gang symbols on schoolbooks, clothes, walls or tattoos.
6. Comes home with unexplained physical injuries (fighting-related bruises, injuries to hand/knuckles).
7. Has unexplained cash or goods, such as clothing or jewelry
8. Carries a weapon.
9. Has been in trouble with police.
10. Exhibits negative changes in behavior such as:
 - A. Withdrawing from family and friends
 - B. Declining school attendance, performance and behavior
 - C. Staying out late without reason
 - D. Displaying an unusual desire for privacy
 - E. Signs of drug use
 - F. Breaking rules consistently
 - G. Speaking in gang style language

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- Spend quality time with your 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 family
- Encourage good study habits
- Teach your child how to cope with peer pressure
- Help your child develop good conflict/resolution skills
- Encourage your child to participate in positive after school programs with adult supervision (sports, youth groups, etc.)

- Take action in your neighborhood (create a neighborhood alliance, report and remove graffiti, report gang activity)
- Talk with your child about the dangers of and consequences of gang involvement.
- Your child should not:
 - Associate with gang members
 - Attend parties or social events sponsored by gangs
 - Use hand signs, symbols, or language meaningful to gangs.
 - Wear clothing, including specific colors, which may have meaning to gangs in the area.

Websites for further information:

www.cops.usdoj.gov

www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

www.safeyouth.org

ALSO REMEMBER CURFEW LAWS FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

It is unlawful for any minor between the ages of seventeen (17) and eighteen (18) years of age to remain in or upon any public street, highway, park, vacant lot, establishment, or other public place within the county during the following time frames:

- Monday through Thursday between the hours of 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM
- Friday through Sunday between the hours of midnight to 6:00 AM.

It is unlawful for any minor sixteen (16) years of age and under to remain in or upon any public street, highway, park, vacant lot, establishment, or other public place within the county during the following times:

- Monday through Thursday between the hours of 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM
- Friday through Sunday between the hours of 11:00 PM to 6:00 am