

Protect Your Children, Protect Yourself

The parents of children involved in gang activity can be held criminally or civilly responsible for the actions of their child. The Elgin Police Department aggressively enforces laws regarding parental responsibility when parent do not actively take steps to prevent their child's participation in gang activity and other criminal activity. In addition to State Laws, the City of Elgin also has local ordinances relating to parental responsibility including but not limited to potential penalties against parents for their children's curfew violations, truancy, possession of weapons, air rifles , fireworks, drugs or alcohol. This includes parents who allow underage drinking parties in their homes. Curfew for children under 17 is 11pm on weekdays and midnight on Friday and Saturday. See Elgin Municipal codes: 10.66, 10.41, 10.42 and 10.44.



151 Douglas Ave. Elgin, IL 60120
Phone 847-289-2700

For Assistance

For counseling and/or assistance with delinquent behavior contact the Elgin Police Department Gang Unit or Social Services.



Elgin Police Department Phone Numbers

Gang Crimes Unit Sergeant:
847-289-2691

Juvenile Investigations:
847-289-2625

Social Services:
847- 289-2686

Contact police at (847) 289-2700
to report any information about
gang or crime activity.

**GANG
PREVENTION**
for
PARENTS

ELGIN POLICE



We Serve and Protect

Behaviors Associated with Joining a Gang:

Research shows that parents play an integral part in keeping children out of gangs. Domestic violence, child abuse, parental drug/alcohol abuse, as well as other influences within the family can increase the risk that a youth will join a gang.

Parents can protect their children from gang activity if they stay informed.

Reasons for Gang Involvement

- Lack of success in:
 - School
 - Sports
 - Other activities
- Influence from friends/family members involved
- Perceived or real need for protection
- Peer pressure from other gang members & friends
- Need to belong to something (group) or the need to take part in something

- Changes in behavior, such as: Withdrawing from family; declining attendance/performance at school; unusual desire for secrecy; confrontational behavior, such as talking back, verbal abuse, name calling, and disrespect for authority; sudden suspicious opinions about law enforcement; change in attitude about school, church, or other routine 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
- Physical injuries that appear to have been caused by being beaten or by fighting, such as injuries to the hands and knuckles.
- Withdrawal from long-time friends and forming bonds with an entirely new group of friends.
- Unexplained cash or goods, such as jewelry, electronics, or clothes.

What Parents Can Do:

- Get involved and stay involved with your children.
 - Know who they are with
 - Know where they are going
 - Check in on them
 - Know their friends & friend's parents
- 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 the consequences.
- Talk to your kids about gangs, and what they should be aware of.
- Discuss your stance on gangs and involvement.
- Discuss your stance on drugs, alcohol, and violence.
- Teach them how to deal with peer pressure.
- Plan family time: have family game night, eat meals together, take trips (big or small), keep family traditions, and have family meetings to discuss plans, feelings, and complaints.