

Empowering Our Parents!

Parental Rights, Responsibilities, and Strategies for
Keeping Our Children Out of Gangs



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Hollister Police Dept.



Is There a Gang Problem in the City of Hollister?

No **single** criminal or unlawful activity will indicate there are gangs in your community. These conditions may indicate the **possible** existence of gangs....

- Rampant graffiti on streets, curbs, buildings, in schools, etc.
- Widespread vandalism, auto thefts, robberies/muggings.
- Senseless crimes of violence.
- Fighting between youths followed by crimes committed with weapons.
- Youths commonly seen traveling in groups.
- Most importantly, drug trafficking and use.



What Is A Criminal Street Gang

- A criminal street gang is a formal or informal ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons who have:
 - A common name or common identifying signs, colors, or symbols.
 - Members or associates who individually or collectively, engaged in or have engaged in a pattern of youth and street gang activity such as fighting, vandalism, murder, and drug sales.

Why Do People Become Involved In Gangs?

- A need to belong to something...a sense of family
 - Money and power
 - Protection – suspect or victim
 - Boredom
 - Born into the lifestyle – multi-generational
- Gangs are targeting younger and younger children, and are constantly changing and adapting their image to avoid attention by law enforcement.
- Reliance on secrecy, fear, and intimidation. They regard your children as expendable in the furtherance of their goals.



Common Deflectors Used By Gang Members And Associates

- “That’s just the style the kids are wearing these days”
- “That’s just the music the kids are listening to nowadays”
- “The police are accusing me of being a gang member and are racially profiling me just because I’m...”
- “I’m not a gang member, I just hang out with some of them”



Dealing With Gangs

- Be decisive, firm, and fair. Lenient treatment is viewed as weakness and they will take advantage of you.
- Intimidation will not work; it will most likely lead to confrontation. Lectures do not work either. Gang members are looking for respect.
- Giving any public or media attention to a gang only feeds their egos and escalates gang activity.

Gang Involvement Does Not Happen Overnight. It Is A Gradual Process and If You Are Alert You Will See the Signs

- Poor progress or achievement in school**
- Truancy from school/lack of supervision**
- Lack of hobbies or too much leisure time**
- Frequent contact with authority figures or police**
- Draws gang insignias/symbols**
- Problems at home**
- Lives in a neighborhood where gangs exist**
- Friends are gang members or "dressing down" or "sagging and bagging" in gang attire**
- Begins dressing in traditional gang clothes**

What Can Parents Do?

- Do not allow hanging in the streets or after hours. Know who their friends are. Know where they are.
- Be very suspicious of gang writing, graffiti, or tattoos.
- Encourage anti-gang attitudes at home. Zero tolerance.
- Educate yourself about gangs and drugs. Remove the mystery.
- Participate in your child's education—find out what's happening at school.
- Get involved in community affairs and organizations.
- Set the example for your kids—they will do what you do.
- Believe in your children and **DON'T GIVE UP.**

The Most Effective Weapon Against the Criminal Street Gang: A Strong Family And They Know It!!

- Remember, as Parents **YOU ARE THE LEADERS OF YOUR FAMILY!!!!**

- Make Rules
- Stick Together
- Stay Together



MAKE RULES

- To hold your family together, not to punish or restrict
- For what you want, not what you don't want
- Be specific, clear up an chance for misunderstanding
- Set rewards and consequences and be willing to enforce the agreed upon rules
- Include the whole family in making the rules of the house
- Go over each rule to ensure understanding
- Compliance doesn't happen overnight

Stick Together

- Create rules everyone in the family can agree on
- Be willing to negotiate and give a little to get a little
- Allow compromise within reason
- Support and stand behind your decisions, remember you are the boss
- If you are a single parent, have a trusting adult you can discuss your parental decisions with

Be in Charge

- Tell your children exactly what you expect
 - Be specific
 - Use few words
 - Check for understanding...set them up for success!



Give Support

- HANDS OFF
 - Ignore initial arguments and frustrations
 - Give them time to act – put the ball in their court
- HANDS ON
 - Praise and encourage cooperation
 - Remind them of the big picture
 - Empower your children with knowledge
 - Help as needed

Act on Consequences

- Remind ONCE of the consequences
- Be business-like as you give consequences
- Stress accountability for their actions
- Be firm but fair – no humiliation or hitting



If what you're doing isn't working, seek outside help.
Always remember, you're not alone.

Invest Time in Your Children

- Your children learn from you by watching and imitating you...regardless of age. Set the standard!!
- Actions speak louder and mean more than words: Show your love, don't just say it.



Continued

- Establish family oriented routines and rituals
- Invest time with each child
- Have fun with your children, let them know you're not just the disciplinarian



Continued

- ENCOURAGE

- Support and encourage positive interests
- Identify successes

- LISTEN

- Listen and repeat what your children tell you
- Save the teaching and lectures for later
- Let them know they have a voice

Continued

- TALK
 - Encourage your children to talk with you
 - Show them who you are as a person
 - Be their outlet
 - Involve them in decision making
 - Consider family meetings



Thank you for listening!!

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PARENTAL RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES:
KNOWING WHERE YOU
STAND



Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

As parents you have many responsibilities when it comes to your children, but you also have very important rights as well.

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- Custody and control: Parents must make important decisions about their children's lives, such as where the children will live, what school they will attend, when medical care is appropriate and what, if any, religion they will practice. These rights are constitutionally protected and in general cannot be taken away unless it can be shown that the parents are unfit and cannot adequately care for their children.

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- Cooperation and Obedience: Parents are expected to control their children and are permitted to discipline them, (not to the point of ABUSE or NEGLECT).
- In some instances, children may run away from home, refuse to go to school or be beyond parental control.
- If the situation is EXTREME, the parents may seek to give up legal responsibility for the child.

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- Cooperation and Obedience: Or, if the parents fails to adequately control their child, a judge may determine that the child in need of supervision and declare him or her a ward of the court.
- When this occurs, the court sometimes takes custody of the child and the responsibility for that child's basic needs and education.

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- Cooperation and obedience: Children are NOT required to obey a parental order to do something dangerous or illegal. Parents who allow or encourage children to commit dangerous or illegal acts may be charged with *contributing to the delinquency of a minor or neglect*.

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- Earnings: While most parents allow their child to keep his or her earnings, parents also have a legal right to such wages. There are exceptions to this rule, however.
- A child's earnings may not be available to the parent if:
 - The parents have exploited, neglected, or abandoned the child, and the child has brought suit to be freed from parental control.
 - The child's income is the result of his or her special talent or athletic ability, or if the income is the result of a gift or inheritance.

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- Parental responsibilities: Parents' most important responsibility is to support their children. You are legally obligated to provide your children with the necessities of life. Such necessities are not limited to food, clothing, and shelter, but also include medical care.
- The failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or parental care and supervision may lead to criminal prosecution for neglect.

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- Injuries from guns: Parents may be required to pay victims up to \$60,000.
- Willful misconduct: If the child causes injury or death to another, or property damage, the parents are liable for up to \$25,000 in damages. (This could apply to the parents of a child who commits an internet-related crime such as software piracy).

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- Graffiti: Parents may be liable for the costs of removal, repair, and/or replacement of property, and keeping the property free of graffiti for up to one year.
- If there are repeated graffiti offenses, parents could be liable for up to \$50,000 in fines that their children cannot pay.

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- **Truancy:** Parents may be required to pay a \$100 fine for the fourth violation in one year.
- **Injuries to another person on school grounds; damage to school property; failure to return borrowed property:** Parents may be liable for \$10,000, and up to \$10,000 for any reward. The school may withhold grades, diplomas, and/or transcripts until these amounts are paid.

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- Shoplifting: If a child steals from a store or library, the parents may be liable for up to \$500 plus costs.
- Curfew violations: Parents must pay the actual administrative and transportation cost incurred by the police for picking up and returning children to their homes on a second violation.

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- Privacy rights at home: Youngsters often ask if their parents can legally permit the police to search their bedrooms. As a general rule, the answer is yes. Most courts have stated that parents or guardians have a property interest in the entire home and are allowed to consent to the search of that property or to search it themselves!

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

Under California State Law, a parent has the right to REASONABLY discipline a child by physical punishment and may administer REASONABLE punishment without being liable for battery. In order to be considered disciplinary the punishment must be necessary, (there must be behavior by the child to deserve the punishment) and punishment must be REASONABLE, (not excessive).

Parent's Rights and Responsibilities

- **The Penal Code Definition of willful harm or injury to a child:** Any person who, under circumstances or conditions likely to produce great bodily harm or death, willfully causes or permits any child to suffer, or inflicts thereon unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering, or having the care or custody of any child, willfully causes or permits the person or health of that child to be injured, or willfully causes or permits that child to be placed in a situation where his or her person or health is endangered, shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or in that state prison for two, four, or six years.



AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

FEEL FREE TO ASK QUESTIONS
REGARDING PARENTAL RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES



RESOURCE BOOTHS

Please visit the numerous resource
booths!!!