

# **KNOW**

**THE**

# **SIGNS**

*A Guide to Gang Identification*



*A handbook for educators, community leaders  
and law enforcement.*

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# Definitions —

## ***New Jersey Criminal Statutes define a gang as:***

“Criminal street gang” means three or more persons associated in fact. Individuals are associated in fact if: (1) two of the following seven criteria that indicate criminal street gang membership apply: (a) self-proclamation; (b) witness testimony or official statement; (c) written or electronic correspondence; (d) paraphernalia or photographs; (e) tattoos; (f) clothing or colors; (g) any other indicia of street gang activity; and (2) individually or in combination with other members of a criminal street gang, while engaging in gang related activity, have committed or conspired or attempted to commit, within the preceding five years from the date of the present offense, excluding any period of imprisonment, one or more offenses on separate occasions of robbery, carjacking, aggravated assault, assault, aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, arson, burglary, kidnapping, extortion, tampering with witnesses and informants or a violation of chapter 11, section 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 of chapter 35 or chapter 39 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

***(NJSA 2C:33-29)***

Schools, communities and other organizations may define gangs differently than law enforcement agencies in order to address their specific situation.

### ***For example:***

A group of juveniles and/or adults in a geographic area whose activities include (but are not limited to) the unlawful use of force, intimidation, and/or threats and violence to further the group’s activities.

Additionally, the group should fulfill at least one of the following criteria:

1. The group must recognize itself as a distinct group (through signs, symbols, etc.)

2. The group must conduct enough illegal activity to get a consistent negative relationship from law enforcement and or local school communities
3. Community (local and/or school) recognition of the group

*(Sample school district definition)*

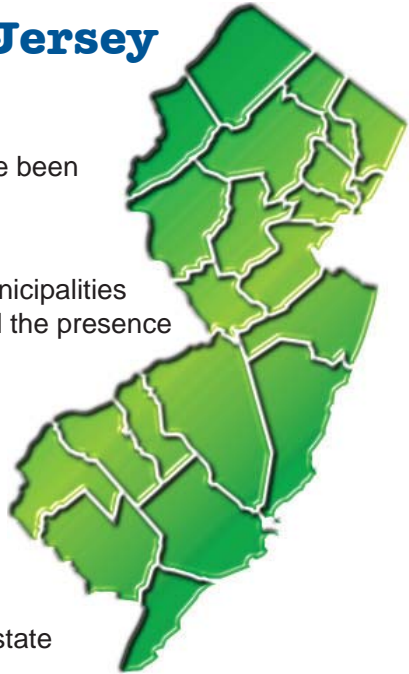
Keep in mind that gangs can range from large, nationally known and organized groups (like the Bloods or Latin Kings) that can be active throughout the country to small, unorganized groups that do not venture outside their particular neighborhood. You do not have to have the Bloods or Crips in your area to have a gang problem. According to the definitions above, a gang is not even required to have a name. As long as the group has some sort of commonality between the members they should be classified as a gang.

**REMEMBER:**

**Gang members may be of ANY race, socio-economic background, gender, or age. The biggest mistake anyone can make when dealing with gangs is thinking that gang members adhere to some stereotype. Increasingly, gangs are spreading to suburban and rural areas and they have few, if any, ties to urban, inner city gangs that most people think of when discussing gangs.**

# Gangs and New Jersey

- Over 282 distinct gangs have been identified in New Jersey
- Forty-three percent of all municipalities in New Jersey have reported the presence of gangs in their jurisdictions
- 43% of all gang members in the state are under 18 years of age
- Gangs have been reported active in rural, suburban and urban areas throughout the state
- Respondents to the 2004 NJSP Street Gang Survey estimated that at least 532 gang-related incidents took place on school grounds in 2003
- The NJ Department of Education reported a decrease in gang fights between the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years, but an increase in the number of assaults, threats, and incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.



*Sources:*

*2007 New Jersey State Police Street Gang Survey and New Jersey Department of Education Violence, Vandalism & Substance Abuse in New Jersey Public Schools 2003-2004 Report*

## Common Terms —

**187:** Common gang term for murder or violence

**ADR or Amor De Rey:** Latin King affiliation

**ALKN or ALKQN:** Latin King affiliation

**B/K:** (Blood Killer) May be seen in a variety of different forms including extensive use of products with “BK in their names, *i.e.* Burger King, British Knights, etc. (Crip affiliation).

**B.O.S.:** Beat on sight

**Brick City:** Newark, NJ

**C/K:** (Crip Killer) Same as “B/K” above (Blood affiliation)

**Crabs:** Derogatory term for Crips members by Bloods

**Folk:** Umbrella gang affiliation

**“G” or “OG”:** Refers to the named individual as a ‘gangster’ or ‘original gangster.’

**Gat:** Gun

**Manito (or Hermanito):** Brother or Brother of the Nation (Hispanic gangs)

**M.O.B.:** “Money Over Bitches” or “Member of Bloods”

**People:** Umbrella gang affiliation

**Physical:** Punishment for a gang member who breaks the gangs rules. Usually a beating by one or members for a set period of time.

**Rocking or Representing:** How gang members show affiliation for their gang. This may be done by wearing certain clothing, showing hand signs, etc.

**Slobs:** Derogatory term for Bloods members by Crips

**T.O.S.:** Terminate on sight

**Violation:** Punishment for a gang member who breaks the gangs rules. Usually a beating by one or multiple members for a set period of time.

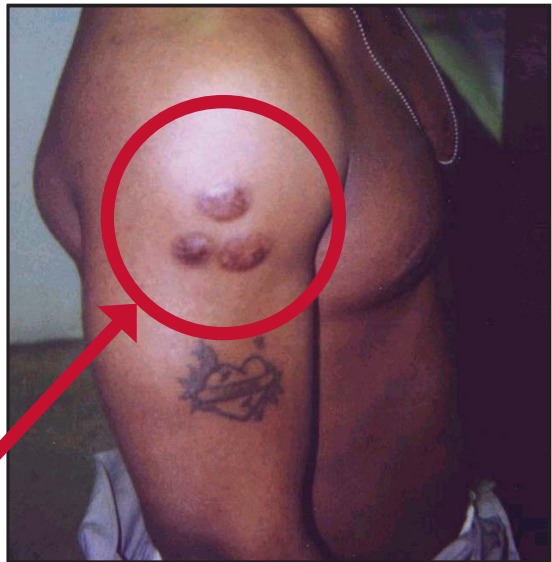
**What’s Poppin’?:** Greeting among Bloods members.

**What’s Crackin’?:** Greeting among Crips members

# Gang Colors and Identifiers —

## **Bloods:**

- Colors: Primary colors are **red** and **black**. Secondary colors are **brown**, **pink** and **green**.
- Cross out “C”s in writing (to disrespect Crips)
- Refer to each other as “Dawgs” or “Dogz”

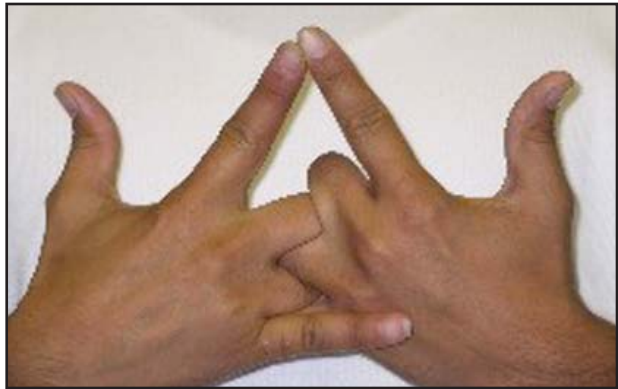


***“Dog Paw”  
symbol used by  
Bloods members.  
Usually burned  
onto the skin  
with cigarettes.***

# Gang Colors and Identifiers —

## *Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation (ALKQN):*

- Colors: **Gold/Black**
- Use of 3 or 5 pointed crown
- Use initials ALKN and ALKQN
- The number '360' has special significance
- ADR "Amor De Rey" or "Love of the King"



# Gang Colors and Identifiers —

## **Crips:**

- Colors: **Blue/Black/Purple/Orange/Grey**
- Cross out “B”s and “P”s in writing (to disrespect the Bloods)
- Refer to each other as “Cuzz”



# Gang Colors and Identifiers —

## MS-13:

- Colors: **Blue** and **white**
- Mix of Roman and Arabic numerals (MS-X3, MSXIII, MS13)
- Old English and Block Lettering font in graffiti/writing

## Old English BLOCK LETTERING



# Gang Colors and Identifiers —

## 18<sup>th</sup> Street:

- Colors: **Blue**
- ‘Dieciocho’ (‘18’ in Spanish)
- Mix of Roman and Arabic numerals (XV3, XVIII, 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Old English font in graffiti/writing

## Old English



# Gang Colors and Identifiers —

## *Neta:*

- Colors: **Red/White/Black** or **Blue**
- Use Puerto Rican flag extensively
- The number '150' has special significance

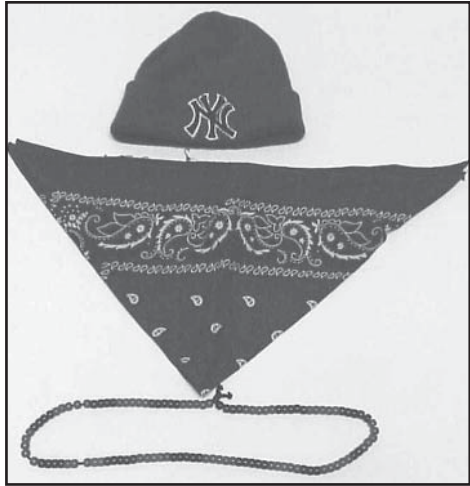


# Clothing —

Use of bandannas, beads and hats with gang colors is common.

What side of the body these items are worn on may indicate what gang the individual identifies with. Other indicators may include: rolled up pants leg, one shoe untied, hats cocked to one side or jewelry worn to one side of the body.

**Not all people who adopt this style and language are members of gangs.**



*Examples of how bandannas may be worn to signify gang affiliation:*



Clothing may be used to advertise gang affiliation, either through colors, team symbols or particular brands.

Some gang members will have clothing custom made to advertise their affiliation.



To avoid suspicion, members may use small items (shoelaces, thread, etc.) to show gang colors.



*Colored shoelaces used to identify gang membership.*

*Team colors and names used to identify gang allegiance.*



# Graffiti —



**Graffiti may be an indicator of gang activity.**

**Look for:**

- crowns, pitchforks, stars, etc.
- "\$" indicates narcotics sales
- names/initials

**Example of Latin King graffiti with a five pointed crown and the initials A.D.R. (Amor de Rey – Love of the King). Quest is most likely the 'Tag' name of the person who put up this graffiti.**



***Virtually everything in gang graffiti has some sort of meaning.***

**Cross-outs:** Indicates disrespect for the crossed out group or individual. May also indicate that the writer is going to attack the disrespected person.



*Example of disrespect to the Bloods by crossing out their name*

***When you observe graffiti you should:***

- 1) **Document it.** Photograph it and note the time and place it was discovered.
- 2) **Remove it.** As quickly as possible, have the graffiti removed.
- 3) **Monitor it.** Monitor that location for further evidence of gang activity.

***The longer graffiti stays up the more graffiti it will attract.***



*Local gang name and symbol.*

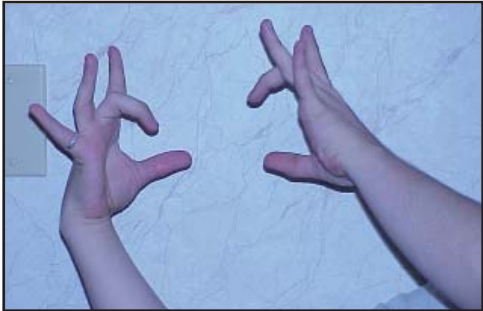
***“Tag,” or nickname of individual putting up graffiti.***

***Tag name along with 3 point crown that may indicate gang affiliation.***



# Hand Signs —

Hand signs are used by gangs to identify their gang and as a form of communication. They may also be “flashed” as a warning or threat to rival gangs. They are often “thrown” quickly, making interpretation difficult for the non-expert.



**Blood Killer**



**West Coast**



***Crip Killer***



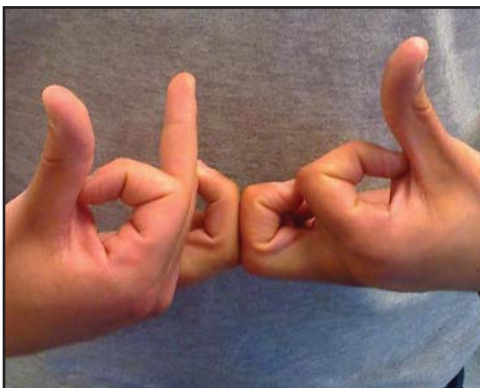
***Crip for Life***



***5 Pointed Star***



***Latin King "Crown"***



***Blood Handsign***



***Ñeta Handsign***

# **SYMBOLS —**



*Pitchforks (pointing up or down)*



*Stars (5 or 6 pointed most common)*



*Crowns (3 or 5 pointed most common)*

## Folk & People Nations —

Folk and People Nations are loose umbrella organizations originally formed in Chicago. Many gangs throughout the nation claim to fall under one of these groupings.

It is therefore possible for someone to be a member of a gang and a nation. For example, a member of the Black Gangster Disciples could be a member of that gang AND also a member of the Folk Nation.

Theoretically, gangs belonging to the same 'nation' should be allies and cooperate. In reality however, these bonds tend not to be particularly strong. It is not uncommon for gangs belonging to the same nation to be in conflict with each other.

Not all gang members belong to the Folk or People Nations (especially the further from the Chicago gang influence they are). Many, in fact may not even be aware of the existence of Folk and People even though they may use some of the symbology of the groups.

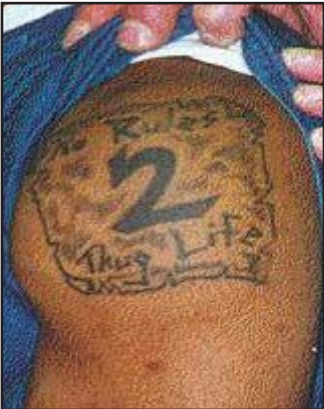
# Tattoos —

**Common themes of gang-related tattoos are:**

- Dogs
- ‘Thugs’
- Gang symbols (crowns, pitchforks, etc.)
- Lions
- Money
- ‘Gangsters’
- ‘M.O.B’



**Dog Paw:** Found most commonly on the right arm. Usually done by cigarette or cigar burns. Favored by Bloods members who refer to each other as ‘dog.’



**“No Rules 2 Thug Life”** Thugs and gangsters are common themes in gang tattoos and literature.

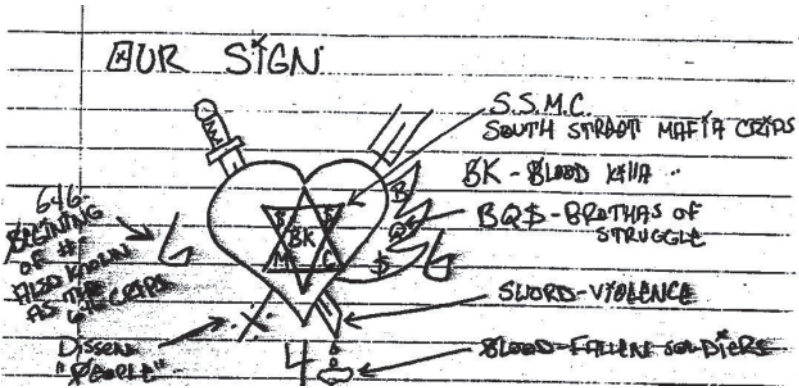
# Gang Writing —

Gang members frequently put gang-related information in writing. The more organized the gang, the more rules, oaths, etc. will exist. It is important to remember that most gang members are proud to be in a gang and will advertise their affiliation whenever they can. Notebooks, homework, clothing, and anything else that can be drawn on should be checked for gang markings. Photocopy everything if you aren't going to confiscate it.

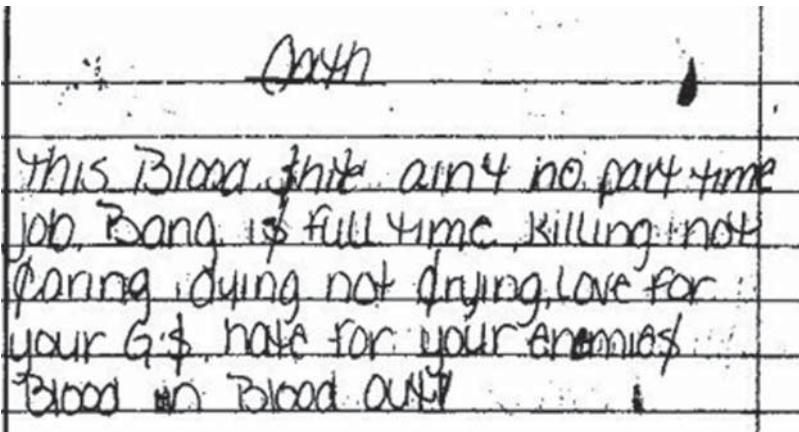
## Bloods Code List

(Codes)	
	oo
	ooo
	oo
577-home/shillin' spot	B.P.S.N
M.A. Freeze - in love	051
Triple Platinum - gwn	I'm out - "1600"
550 - Anyone not blood	POUSE Blood - "88"
E. Ribbet - enemy	Get back with "1010"
Slyfox - sneaky/sneakin'	me blood
379/bigerette - cigarete	he pussy - wetbush
1090 - set trippin'	pussy - yellowback
555 - BAZOB	
Bumble Bee - Latin Queens	
Cali - weed	
wet - drunk	
baby love - money	
G. marking - chillin	

# Gang Writing —

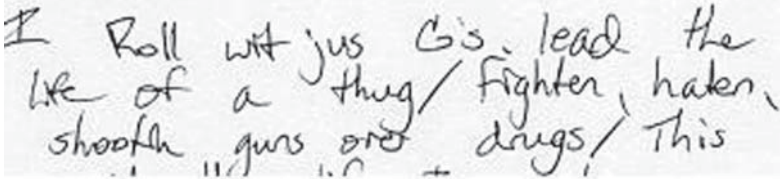


Members frequently possess gang-related writing which may be on notebooks, cards, or scrap paper.



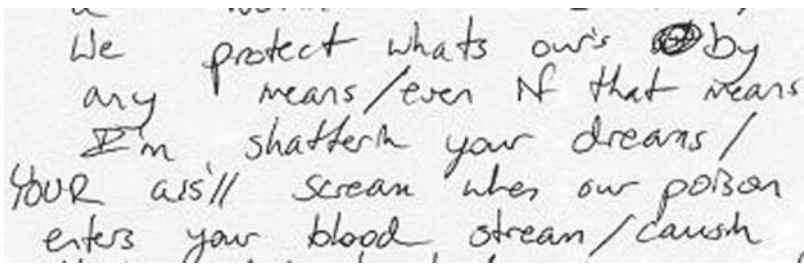
## Gang Writing —

*Many members write their own rap lyrics which describe their gang and criminal activity.*



I Roll wit jus G's, lead the  
life of a thug / fighter, hater,  
shootin guns over drugs / This

***"I roll wit jus G's, lead the life of a thug / fighten, haten,  
shootin guns over drugs..."***



We protect whats ours by  
any means / even if that means  
I'm shatterin your dreams /  
YOUR ass'll scream when our poison  
enters your blood stream / caugh

***"We protect what's ours by any means / even if that means  
I'm shatterin your dreams / Your ass'll scream when our  
poison enters your blood stream..."***

# Gang Writing —

## Rules

1. Do not rat on anybody (members).
2. If one fights we all fight.
3. We stick together.
4. Do not mess with any of member girls.
5. Only fight when you have to.
6. If one of members is a source don't say anything (if your asked)
7. If there is any gossip about anyone in the group you must tell.
8. No acting gay.
9. Do tell anyone anything about any thing we know.

*Rules from a gang of intermediate school-age youth*



*Latin King graffiti (Five-pointed crown, yellow & black colors of the bee are same colors of Latin Kings)*

# Safety Issues —

Gang members are known to sometimes carry and use firearms. They also carry and use other types of weapons as well.

Blades are sometimes used as weapons by gang members. Box cutters and razor blades are popular because they are easy to acquire and conceal.

Gang members may carry blades in their mouths, hat brims, bandannas, or similar areas.

*When dealing with suspected gang members:*

**1) Attempt to talk with them individually.**

Groups of gang members tend to be more uncooperative, unpredictable and dangerous than individual members.

**2) Don't refer to the gang as a gang.**

Many gang members find the term 'gang' disrespectful. Other terms frequently used: Set, Nation, Organization, Association, Crew, Clique or Posse.

**3) Treat gang members with respect.**

Respect is very important for most gang members. If they think you respect (as opposed to fear) them you are more likely to get positive results from them. For example: If you have a policy against the wearing of bandannas or 'flags,' you will be showing the member respect by allowing him or her to remove the 'flag' and give it to you rather than forcibly taking it from them.

**4) If you aren't sure if something is gang related...ask.**

Sometimes gang members will discuss gang information openly.

# Guidelines for Preventing Gangs —

- 1) ***Establish good communication with your children.***
  - Open, frequent and positive in tone
  - Encourage children to ask questions.
  - Ask your children about gangs in their school and the neighborhood.
  
- 2) ***Be aware of what's going on in your children's lives.***
  - Who are their friends?
  - What do they do when away from school or home?
  - What are their major influences and interests?
  - Monitor their internet use (MySpace, Facebook, etc.).
  
- 3) ***Occupy your children's free time.***
  - Get them involved in school, sports, community, or recreational activities.
  - Give them responsibilities at home.
  - Praise them for doing well and encourage them to do their best.
  
- 4) ***Set the example.***
  - Help your children to identify positive role models and heroes – especially those in your family or community.
  - Demonstrate a 'zero-tolerance' policy for gang involvement at home or in the community.
  - Do not buy or allow your children to dress in gang style clothing.
  
- 5) ***Participate in the education of your children.***
  - Visit your children's school, meet their teachers, and attend parent/school meetings.

- Inform your children about the dangers of gang involvement.

**6) *Participate in the community.***

- Know your neighbors.
- Report suspicious groups and graffiti to the local police.
- Talk with other parents and exchange information.

**7) *Learn about gang activity in your community.***

- How do gang members behave? What sort of activity are they involved in?
- Attend police, community and/or school informational meetings.
- Read current articles on gang activity.
- Conduct research online.

**Establish rules, set limits,  
and be CONSISTENT!**

# Sample School Gang Policy —

- 1) The board recognizes that a school campus is a place that has appropriate rules and regulations to ensure a safe and healthy environment, which is conducive to learning for all students. All persons shall be knowledgeable of the conduct and expectations on which this School District operates.
- 2) It is the policy of this District that membership or affiliation in secret fraternities or in other clubs or gangs not sponsored by established agencies or organizations and recognized by this School District is strictly prohibited.
- 3) Persons who initiate, advocate, or promote activities, openly or otherwise, which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property, which disrupt the school environment and/or are harmful to the education process will be dealt with as if they committed an offense of the most serious category.

The use of hand signals, written or oral comments, stances, stares, graffiti or the presence or use of any apparel, jewelry, accessory or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol or any other attribute which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with a gang or group, whether real or implied, presents a clear and present danger to the school environment, its staff and students, and the educational objectives of the community and State and is strictly prohibited.

Any incident involving initiations, intimidation and/or related activity of such gangs affiliates will hereby be considered actions which present the danger or likelihood of bodily danger, physical harm or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students or staff and is strictly prohibited.

Any person wearing, carrying, distributing, displaying gang/group paraphernalia; exhibiting behavior or gestures which symbolize gang/group membership; or causing and/or participating in activities which intimidate or affect the attendance or sense of personal safety or well-being of another student or staff member will be subject to disciplinary action including suspensions and/or permanent expulsions.

#### 4) Delegation of Responsibility

The building administrators of all district facilities shall ensure that:

- 1) Gang affiliation and activities are included in printed rules and regulations provided to staff, students and parents.
- 2) Students identified as possibly involved in gang-related activities receive counseling to enhance self-esteem, encourage interest and participation in wholesome activities, and promote membership in authorized student organizations.
- 3) Parents/Guardians will be notified of the school's concerns
- 4) Staff in-service training regarding gang activities, methods of operation, and current methods of identification is available to staff.
- 5) All gang affiliation or gang type incidents are referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- 6) Affiliation with a gang, gang activities or claiming gang membership by students is considered exceptional misconduct and subject to penalties that may include suspension or expulsion
- 7) Any student disciplined for gang activities or affiliation may be required to sign a negotiated behavior contract between the student, parent and administrator before he/she will be re-admitted.
- 8) Building administrators have the authority to reduce long-term suspension to a shorter duration provided the building administrator is convinced that a plan is in progress which will result in elimination of future involvement with gangs.

*Students who have been expelled or suspended for gang-related activities may be subject to emergency expulsion and may lose their right to remain in school during the appeal process.*

## **Gang Policy and Contract —**

The gang contract gives school administrators the ability to take a clear, proactive stance toward gangs and gang activity in their school. Creating a detailed gang policy (see the provided sample) is a required first step in creating an anti-gang school environment. The policy should, at a minimum, define both gangs and gang members, what gang behavior is not acceptable on school grounds and procedures to be taken in the event there is a breach of policy.

The gang contract is used when a student is engaging in gang-related activity on school grounds or at school sponsored events. The contract allows the school administrators to specifically point out what behavior is not acceptable at the school. Further, a parent or guardian is usually required to sit down with both the school administrator and the student to discuss the school's findings and courses of action before the student is allowed back into school.

*Coordination with local law enforcement is critical in this process. Occasionally, it may be necessary for a member of the local law enforcement to speak with parents in order to convey the seriousness of their child's activities.*

# Gang/Behavior Contract (sample)

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Contract Conditions and Expectations**

1. <Student's Name> is not to wear any gang-affiliated clothing to school; specifically anything which says <Crips> or <Bloods>.
2. <Student's Name> is not to associate with any known or suspected gang affiliates while in school or at school-related activities when on <name of school> School District Property who do not attend the <name of school> School District.
3. <Student's Name> is to refrain from all harassing behaviors while attending <name of school>. This includes threats or intimidation of others by exhibiting identified gang behaviors.
4. <Student's Name> is expected to refrain from all gang-related activity while a <name of school> student. This includes writing in gang-style script, hand signs, stances, slang talk, and other identified gang behaviors.
5. <Student's Name> must comply with all school policies regarding attendance and disciplinary procedures.

\*\*\*These terms are specified for the purpose of providing a safe and orderly environment for both <student's name> and all <name of school> students so that they may be permitted to achieve their maximum educational potential.\*\*\*

*I understand the above conditions and understand the consequences of failing to abide by those conditions.*

*Any violations of this contract will subject the student to suspension, up to and including the remainder of the semester.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator

# Selected New Jersey Gang Legislation

## ***New Jersey 2C:33-28. Solicitation, recruitment to join criminal street gang; crime, degrees***

1. a. An actor who solicits or recruits another to join or actively participate in a criminal street gang with the knowledge or purpose that the person who is solicited or recruited will promote, further, assist, plan, aid, agree, or attempt to aid in the commission of criminal conduct by a member of a criminal street gang commits a crime of the fourth degree. For purposes of this section, the actor shall have the requisite knowledge or purpose if he knows that the person who is solicited or recruited will engage in some form, though not necessarily which form, of criminal activity. "Criminal street gang" shall have the meaning set forth in subsection h. of N.J.S.2C:44-3.

b. An actor who, in the course of violating subsection a. of this section, threatens another with bodily injury on two or more separate occasions within a 30-day period commits a crime of the third degree.

c. An actor who, in the course of violating subsection a. of this section, inflicts significant bodily injury upon another commits a crime of the second degree.

d. Any defendant convicted of soliciting, recruiting, coercing or threatening a person under 18 years of age in violation of subsection a., b. or c. of this section shall be sentenced by the court to an extended term of imprisonment as set forth in subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:43-7. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:1-8, N.J.S.2C:44-5 or any other provision of law, a conviction arising under this section shall not merge with a conviction for any criminal offense that the actor committed while involved in criminal street gang related activity, as defined in subsection h. of N.J.S.2C:44-3, nor shall the conviction for any such offense merge with a conviction pursuant to this section and the sentence imposed upon a violation of this section shall be ordered to be served consecutively to that imposed upon any other such conviction.

***New Jersey 18A:11-9. Prohibition of gang-related apparel***

3. A board of education may adopt a dress code policy to prohibit students from wearing, while on school property, any type of clothing, apparel or accessory which indicates that the student has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities. The local law enforcement agency shall advise the board, upon its request, of gangs which are associated with criminal activities.

***New Jersey 2C:44-3. Criteria for sentence of extended term of imprisonment.***

The court may, upon application of the prosecuting attorney, sentence a person who has been convicted of a crime of the first, second or third degree to an extended term of imprisonment if it finds one or more of the grounds specified in subsection a., b., c., or f. of this section. If the grounds specified in subsection d. are found, and the person is being sentenced for commission of any of the offenses enumerated in N.J.S.2C:43-6c. or N.J.S.2C:43-6g., the court shall sentence the defendant to an extended term as required by N.J.S.2C:43-6c. or N.J.S.2C:43-6g., and application by the prosecutor shall not be required. The court shall, upon application of the prosecuting attorney, sentence a person who has been convicted of a crime under N.J.S.2C:14-2 or N.J.S.2C:14-3 to an extended term of imprisonment if the grounds specified in subsection g. of this section are found. The court shall, upon application of the prosecuting attorney, sentence a person to an extended term if the imposition of such term is required pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of P.L.1994, c.130 (C.2C:43-6.4). The finding of the court shall be incorporated in the record.

a.The defendant has been convicted of a crime of the first, second or third degree and is a persistent offender. A persistent offender is a person who at the time of the commission of the crime is 21 years of age or over, who has been previously convicted on at least two separate occasions of two crimes, committed at different times, when he was at least 18 years of age, if the latest in time of these crimes or the date of the defendant's last release from confinement, whichever is later, is within 10 years of the date of the crime for which the defendant is being sentenced.

b.The defendant has been convicted of a crime of the first, second or third degree and is a professional criminal. A professional criminal is a person who committed a crime as part of a continuing criminal activity in concert with two or more persons, and the circumstances of

the crime show he has knowingly devoted himself to criminal activity as a major source of livelihood.

c.The defendant has been convicted of a crime of the first, second or third degree and committed the crime as consideration for the receipt, or in expectation of the receipt, of anything of pecuniary value the amount of which was unrelated to the proceeds of the crime or he procured the commission of the offense by payment or promise of payment of anything of pecuniary value.

d.Second offender with a firearm. The defendant is at least 18 years of age and has been previously convicted of any of the following crimes: 2C:11-3, 2C:11-4, 2C:12-1b., 2C:13-1, 2C:14-2a., 2C:14-3a., 2C:15-1, 2C:18-2, 2C:29-5, 2C:39-4a., or has been previously convicted of an offense under Title 2A of the New Jersey Statutes or under any statute of the United States or any other state which is substantially equivalent to the offenses enumerated in this subsection and he used or possessed a firearm, as defined in 2C:39-1f., in the course of committing or attempting to commit any of these crimes, including the immediate flight therefrom.

e.(Deleted by amendment, P.L.2001, c.443).

f.The defendant has been convicted of a crime under any of the following sections: N.J.S.2C:11-4, N.J.S.2C:12-1b., N.J.S.2C:13-1, N.J.S.2C:14-2a., N.J.S.2C:14-3a., N.J.S.2C:15-1, N.J.S.2C:18-2, N.J.S.2C:29-2b., N.J.S.2C:29-5, N.J.S.2C:35-5, and in the course of committing or attempting to commit the crime, including the immediate flight therefrom, the defendant used or was in possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

g.The defendant has been convicted of a crime under N.J.S.2C:14-2 or N.J.S.2C:14-3 involving violence or the threat of violence and the victim of the crime was 16 years of age or less.

For purposes of this subsection, a crime involves violence or the threat of violence if the victim sustains serious bodily injury as defined in subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:11-1, or the actor is armed with and uses a deadly weapon or threatens by word or gesture to use a deadly weapon as defined in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:11-1, or threatens to inflict serious bodily injury.

h.(Deleted by amendment, P.L.2007, c.341).

Amended 1979, c.178, s.95; 1981, c.31, s.3; 1990, c.32, s.8; 1990, c.87, s.4; 1993, c.132, s.2; 1994, c.127, s.2; 1994, c.130, s.4; 1995, c.211, s.3; 1997, c.120; 1999, c.160, s.4; 2001, c.443, s.8; 2007, c.341, s.8.

***New Jersey 2A:4A-43.2. Additional Penalty for Juvenile Adjudicated Delinquent***

6. In addition to any other penalty imposed by the court, any juvenile adjudicated delinquent for an offense which, if committed by an adult, would constitute criminal mischief pursuant to N.J.S.2C:17-3, attempting to put another in fear of bodily violence pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1981, c.282 (C.2C:33-10), or defacement of private property pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1981, c.282 (C.2C:33-11), involving an act of graffiti, may be required either to pay to the owner of the damaged property monetary restitution in the amount of pecuniary damage caused by the act of graffiti or to perform community service, which shall include removing the graffiti from the property, if appropriate. If community service is ordered, it shall be for either not less than 20 days or not less than the number of days necessary to remove the graffiti from the property.

***New Jersey 2A:4A-43.3. Suspension, postponement of right to operate motor vehicle***

6. Instead of or in addition to any other disposition ordered by the court under section 24 of P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-43) for an initial act of graffiti committed by a person at least 13 and under 18 years of age, the court, considering the factors provided in paragraph (17) of subsection b. of section 24 of P.L.1983, c.77 (C.2A:4A-43), may suspend or postpone for one year that person's right to operate a motor vehicle including a motorized bicycle. In the case of a person who at the time of the imposition of sentence is less than 17 years of age, the period of the suspension of driving privileges authorized herein, including a suspension of the privilege of operating a motorized bicycle, shall commence on the day the sentence is imposed and shall run for a period of one year after the day the person reaches the age of 17 years. If the driving privilege of any person is under revocation, suspension, or postponement for a violation of any provision of this Title or Title 39 of the Revised Statutes at the time of any conviction or adjudication of delinquency for a violation of any offense defined in this section, the revocation, suspension, or postponement period imposed herein shall commence as of the date of termination of the existing revocation, suspension, or postponement.

A second or subsequent offense may result in the suspension or postponement of the person's right to operate a motor vehicle for two years. If a second or subsequent offense occurs during a period when the person has had this right suspended or postponed, the

person's right to operate a motor vehicle may be suspended or postponed for an additional two years to run consecutively.

***New Jersey 2A:153-4.1. Acts of graffiti***

The governing body of any municipality may, by ordinance, provide for the offering of rewards not exceeding \$500.00 each, for the detection and apprehension of any person guilty of purposely or knowingly damaging tangible property of another by an act of graffiti in violation of N.J.S. 2C:17-3. A reward is to be payable after conviction out of those funds of the municipality made available therefore. The reward shall be paid to any person who the governing body, acting upon the recommendation of the municipal chief of police or other principal municipal law enforcement officer, may deem entitled thereto, but no reward shall be paid to any public employee whose duty it is to investigate or to enforce the law or to the employee's spouse, child or parent, living in the same household.

For the purposes of this act, "act of graffiti" means the drawing, painting or the making of any inscription on a bridge, building, public transportation vehicle, rock, wall, sidewalk, street or other exposed surface on public or private property without the permission of the owner.

***New Jersey 2C:35A-3. Criteria for imposition of anti-drug profiteering penalty***

a. In addition to any other disposition authorized by this title, including but not limited to any fines which may be imposed pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.2C:43-3 and except as may be provided by section 5 of this chapter, where a person has been convicted of a crime defined in chapter 35 or 36 of this Title or any crime involving criminal street gang related activity as defined in subsection h. of N.J.S.2C:44-3 or an attempt or conspiracy to commit such a crime, the court shall, upon the application of the prosecutor, sentence the person to pay a monetary penalty in an amount determined pursuant to section 4 of this chapter, provided the court finds at a hearing, which may occur at the time of sentencing, that the prosecutor has established by a preponderance of the evidence one or more of the grounds specified in this section. The findings of the court shall be incorporated in the record, and in making its findings, the court shall take judicial notice of any evidence, testimony or information adduced at the trial, plea hearing or other court proceedings and shall also consider the presentence report and any other relevant information.

b. Any of the following shall constitute grounds for imposing an Anti-Drug Profiteering Penalty:

(5) The defendant was involved in criminal street gang related activity.

**2C:33-29 Crime of gang criminality; “criminal street gang” defined; grading of offense.**

1. a. A person is guilty of the crime of gang criminality if, while knowingly involved in criminal street gang activity, he commits, attempts to commit, or conspires to commit, whether as a principal or an accomplice, any crime specified in chapters 11 through 18, 20, 33, 35 or 37 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes; N.J.S.2C:34-1; N.J.S.2C:39-3; N.J.S.2C:39-4; section 1 of P.L.1998, c.26 (C.2C:39-4.1); N.J.S.2C:39-5; or N.J.S.2C:39-9. A crime is committed while involved in a criminal street gang related activity if the crime was committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a criminal street gang.

“Criminal street gang” means three or more persons associated in fact. Individuals are associated in fact if: (1) two of the following seven criteria that indicate criminal street gang membership apply: (a) self-proclamation; (b) witness testimony or official statement; (c) written or electronic correspondence; (d) paraphernalia or photographs; (e) tattoos; (f) clothing or colors; (g) any other indicia of street gang activity; and (2) individually or in combination with other members of a criminal street gang, while engaging in gang related activity, have committed or conspired or attempted to commit, within the preceding five years from the date of the present offense, excluding any period of imprisonment, one or more offenses on separate occasions of robbery, carjacking, aggravated assault, assault, aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, arson, burglary, kidnapping, extortion, tampering with witnesses and informants or a violation of chapter 11, section 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 of chapter 35 or chapter 39 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

b.Grading. Gang criminality is a crime of one degree higher than the most serious underlying crime referred to in subsection a. of this section, except that where the underlying crime is a crime of the first degree, gang criminality is a first degree crime and the defendant, upon conviction, and notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:43-6, shall be sentenced to an ordinary term of imprisonment between 15 and 30 years. A sentence imposed

upon conviction of the crime of gang criminality shall be ordered to be served consecutively to the sentence imposed upon conviction of any underlying offense referred to in subsection a. of this section.

L.2007, c.341, s.1.

***2C:33-30 Crime of promotion of organized street crime; grading of offense.***

2. a. A person promotes organized street crime if he conspires with others as an organizer, supervisor, financier or manager to commit any crime specified in chapters 11 through 18, 20, 33, 35, or 37 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes; N.J.S.2C:34-1; N.J.S.2C:39-3; N.J.S.2C:39-4; section 1 of P.L.1998, c.26 (C.2C:39-4.1); N.J.S.2C:39-5; or N.J.S.2C:39-9.

b.Grading. Promotion of organized street crime is a crime of one degree higher than the most serious underlying crime referred to in subsection a. of this section, except that where the underlying offense is a crime of the first degree, promotion of organized street crime is a first degree crime and the defendant, upon conviction, and notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of subsection a of N.J.S.2C:43-6, shall be sentenced to an ordinary term of imprisonment between 15 and 30 years. A sentence imposed upon conviction of the crime of promotion of organized street crime shall be ordered to be served consecutively to the sentence imposed upon conviction of any underlying offense referred to in subsection a. of this section.

L.2007, c.341, s.2.

## **Where to Get Help**

### ***Atlantic County Youth Services***

[http://www.aclink.org/webadmin/MainPages/SocServ/SocServ\\_youth.asp](http://www.aclink.org/webadmin/MainPages/SocServ/SocServ_youth.asp)

### ***Bergen County Children Services***

[http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/departments/DisplayInformation.asp?Department=06&Linda Kriegel \(201\) 336-7150](http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/departments/DisplayInformation.asp?Department=06&Linda%20Kriegel%20(201)%20336-7150)

### ***Camden County Division for Children***

<http://www.co.camden.nj.us/government/offices/children>  
(888) 816 5800 (toll-free), (856) 374-6376

### ***Camden County Youth Services Commission***

[http://www.cpachvi.org/content\\_children.html](http://www.cpachvi.org/content_children.html)  
Diane Crone, director (856) 663-3998

### ***Cape May County Youth Services***

<http://www.co.cape-may.nj.us/Cit-e-Access/webpage.cfm?TID=5&TPID=441>  
Diane Lanzetta, director (609) 465-1309

### ***Essex County Division of Youth Services***

<http://co.essex.nj.us/>  
(973)733-4666

### ***Gloucester County Youth Services***

<http://www.co.gloucester.nj.us/services/youth.htm>  
(856) 384-6870

### ***Hudson County Directory of Youth Services***

<http://www.hcstonline.org/YouthServices/default.aspx>

### ***Hunterdon County Youth Facility***

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/youthfacility.htm>  
(908) 806-5230

### ***Mercer County Division of Youth Services***

[http://www.mercercounty.org/human\\_services/youth\\_services/index.htm](http://www.mercercounty.org/human_services/youth_services/index.htm)  
(609) 434-4125 ext.204

### ***Middlesex County Division of Children's Services***

<http://co.middlesex.nj.us/humanservices/childrensserv.asp>  
(732) 745-3290

### ***Monmouth County Office of Youth Services Planning***

[http://www.monmouthhumanservices.org/youth\\_services.asp](http://www.monmouthhumanservices.org/youth_services.asp)  
(732)866-3585

***Morris County Division of Behavioral Health & Youth Services***

<http://www.co.morris.nj.us/>

(973) 285-6844

***Ocean County Juvenile Services***

<http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/juvenile/index.html>

***Passaic County Youth Services Commission***

<http://www.passaiccountynj.org/Departments/departments.htm>

(973) 881-2834

***Somerset County Youth Services***

<http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/division.htm>

(908) 704-6313

***Union County Division of Youth Services***

<http://www.unioncountynj.org/humansvc/youthser.htm>

(908) 527-4922

## **General Information:**

***New Jersey Office of the Attorney General***

<http://www.state.nj.us/lps/>

***New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission***

<http://www.state.nj.us/lps/jjc/jjchome.html>

***New Jersey's online Gang Free Community***

<http://www.njgangfree.org/home.htm>

***National Youth Gang Center***

<http://www.iir.com/nygc/>

***New Jersey PTA***

<http://www.njpta.org/>

***DYFS homepage***

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dyfs/>

***New Jersey Department of Human Services***

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/>

***Gangs OR Us***

<http://www.gangorus.com/>

***“Know Gangs”***

<http://www.knowgangs.com>

New Jersey State Police  
Street Gang Hotline  
**1-877-SGU-NJSP**

Division of Youth & Family Services  
Action Line  
**800-331-DYFS**

NJ Substance Abuse Hotline  
**1-800-225-0196**

Family Help Line  
**800-THE-KIDS**