

# important numbers

**EMERGENCY: 9-1-1**

Police Non-emergency: 614-277-1710

Crime Prevention: 614-277-1765

Anonymous Tipline: 614-277-1808

Detective Bureau: 614-277-1750

crime map



Find your neighborhood's criminal activity on the Crime Mapping tool at [Police.GroveCityOhio.gov](http://Police.GroveCityOhio.gov).

*The mission of the Grove City Division of Police is to serve and protect all, by providing professional law enforcement services in partnership with the community.*

find us online



[Police.GroveCityOhio.gov](http://Police.GroveCityOhio.gov)



[bit.ly/GCPDNextdoor](http://bit.ly/GCPDNextdoor)



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Rev. 11/2016

# GANGS

— A Guide for Parents



# Grove City

— Division of —

# POLICE

614-277-1710  
3360 Park Street  
Grove City, OH 43123  
[Police.GroveCityOhio.gov](http://Police.GroveCityOhio.gov)





## Is it true, gangs are a problem only in large cities?

No. Gangs and the violence they cause are a problem across the country. The latest release of gang survey information by the National Gang Center was issued in 2014 and provides the following:

- National total gang homicides increased nearly 20% between 2007 and 2012.
- Cities with a population below 50,000 reported an increase of 67% in homicides between 2007 and 2012 attributed to gang violence.

## What is a gang?

A gang is a group of three or more individuals possessing leadership, structure, an identification system and involved in antisocial or criminal behavior.

## How can I spot gang identification symbols?

- Graffiti/Tagging: Symbols and “unusual” letters appearing repeatedly on buildings, sidewalks, school books, book bags and clothing.
- Marking: Gang members are often tattooed to show allegiance to their gang. These body markings may match symbols found on other property.
- Clothing: Many gangs require members to dress alike, wear the same colors, jackets, hats, shoes, etc. Others require bandanas (rags) in a pocket or worn as an accessory. Dressing “left” or “right” (i.e. left pant leg rolled up, left pocket with a bandana hanging out, hat bill to the left, etc.) is sometimes required.

## Is it possible my child is involved with a gang?

Yes. Gang membership crosses all boundaries of age, sex, race, academic achievement and economic status.

## What signs should I look for in my child's behavior?

- Change in friends and/or being secretive about whom their friends are
- Violent behavior
- Refusal to obey authority and/or being disrespectful to authority figures
- Drug/alcohol use and/or possession
- Possession of weapons (knives, guns, brass knuckles)
- Sporadic school attendance and grade decline
- Use of hand signals resembling sign language
- Drawing gang signs or graffiti

## What should I do if I suspect my child is involved with a gang?

- Enforce a strict curfew and know where your child is at all times.
- Get to know your child's friends.
- Set an example of nonviolent reactions to situations.
- Encourage your child to be involved in extracurricular activities.
- Educate other parents and work with schools and/or contact the Detective Bureau/Narcotics at 614-277-1750.