

Did you Know???

Gang Crimes

Recruitment: You can go to jail for up to twelve months for encouraging someone to participate in a gang or to become a gang member. You can go to jail for up to five years if you recruit someone on school property, if you are an adult who is recruiting a juvenile or if you use force or threats to get the person to participate in the gang.

When you commit a crime to benefit a gang or in association with gang members you can get charged with an extra felony. This is true even if you have committed a less serious offense like graffiti. This means you could go to the penitentiary for 10 years just for tagging a wall or sidewalk with gang signs.

W.G. used a marker to draw some gang signs on a trash can. He was convicted of felony gang participation and sentenced to 11 months in jail.

If you commit a gang crime on school property or you are an adult and the gang has juveniles in it, the Court must sentence you to at least two years in jail.

Three Strikes and You're Out! The third time a person commits any kind of gang offense, even something minor like graffiti; he faces 5 to 20 years in the penitentiary and a fine of up to \$100,000.

And You Could Lose Your Home, Car or Computer

Property that is used in a gang crime can be seized by the government and kept permanently. That means if you use your computer, vehicle, or house to commit a gang crime or to encourage someone to join or participate in a gang, the government can take your property. You or your parents could lose your house for holding a gang meeting there. You could lose your car if you drive somewhere to commit an assault or to tag property with gang graffiti. You could lose your computer for sending someone an email or putting up a post that encourages that person to participate in a gang crime. If you are a parent and your kid uses your car or house to commit a gang crime you could end up losing your property. It is important to know what is going on in your house, on your family's computer and what your kids are doing with your car.

Guilt by Association

If you are in a group with gang members who commit a crime like destruction of property or assault, it doesn't matter if you actually hit someone else, threw a rock, etc. Being part of a group that intends to commit a gang crime is enough for you to be found guilty. Choose your friends and who you hang out with carefully because you can get into a lot of trouble for the choices they make.

J.C. stood by while his friend assaulted two rival gang members. J.C. and his friend were both convicted of the assault. J.C. was sentenced to six months in jail.

J.P., an 18 year old high school student was involved in the Bloods. Several of his friends decided to come into Alexandria to commit a series of robberies. J.P. knew what they intended to do and offered to give them a ride. He never got out of the car, held a gun or demanded cash for anyone. But, because of his role, he was recently sentenced to 13 years in the penitentiary for acting as the driver.