



Conducting Gang Interviews

General Gang Investigation Practices

- Make sure that all witnesses that are present at the scene of a crime are listed. They may oftentimes be gang members themselves, even though you may not think so, and their presence can turn what appears to be a birthday party or a quinceañera into a gang party.
- Make sure that you document all clothing that is worn if you even remotely suspect that they are gang members. If they're in custody for a gang crime and are wearing gang clothing (not just a blue shirt, but a blue belt with a "S" buckle, or a red #14 jersey, or bandannas-something a non-gang member probably would not wear) then take it as evidence. It goes to motive.
- When gang members are arrested, try to get a photograph or a photocopy of any phone lists, drawings, rap lyrics, or other writings that they have. Not only can it identify them as gang members, but it can identify all their friends as well.

MIRANDA Questioning

- The Miranda issue is especially important for gang information reports, where the gang member might be in custody for something else. Gang evidence is incriminating, as it can usually be used at sentencing or to support motive. Any statements made by a gang member are subject to Miranda if a custodial situation is present, regardless of whether it is a gang related crime. If Miranda does not apply, please note it in your report.

Specific Gang Questions to Ask

- What set/cliq̄ue are you with?
- What's your tag-name/nickname/street-name? Why do you have that name?
- What kind of tattoos do you have? (TAKE PHOTOS!!!!) Where/When did you get them? Who gave you them? (Another gang member?)
- How long have you been in (been down)?
- Were you jumped in? (By how many people? How long? Where? Who?)
- Did you put in work to get in? (What did you do? Against who? Where?)
- What do you know about your gang's history?
- Why do they claim the color ___? The number ___?
- What color does the rival gang claim? What number?
- What is your gang's territory? What is your rival gang's territory?
- Who are your gang's enemies? Allies?
- Who do you know in the gang? (If you know some of the older veteranos, ask them these names, preferably by using their tag-name.)
- How does the gang benefit from this crime? How do you benefit from this crime? Respect? Money? Property? Intimidation?
- Do you have any family members in prison? Are they hooked up with a gang?
- Does your girlfriend/wife kick it with gangs also? Is she ok with you doing so?
- What do you know about the Mexican Mafia? Nuestra Familia? Aryan Brotherhood (other prison gangs, as appropriate).
- Does your gang have to pay taxes to the Mexican Mafia? (Or Nuestra Familia, etc. as appropriate).

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Source: King County Sheriff's Office
Author: Deputy Joe Gagliardi
Distribution: Sworn Personnel