

Merced Police Department (3130)
Training Conference (28000)
Gang Awareness & Gang Expert Testimony (8- hours)

Revised:08/16/2022

Course Purpose: To provide in-service Officers and Investigators an understanding of Gang Enforcement, Merced County Gangs including subsets and signs/symbols, the Gang Validation Process, Identifiers in Gang Membership/Association, Documentation requirements utilizing 186.22 Enhancements, a breakdown of 186.22 PC, Techniques and Methods in Interviewing Gang Members, Debriefing Gang Members, Case Law, and Gang Expert Testimony.

(A) Topic 1: Merced County Gangs:

1. Nuestra Familia and Nortenos
 - (a) History, breakdown, symbols/signs, 14 Bonds, characteristics/customs of the Nuestra Familia, Northern Structure and Norteno gangs. Current trends involving Merced County, specifically Los Banos.
2. Mexican Mafia and Surenos
 - (a) History, breakdown, symbols/signs, Mexican Mafia rules, characteristics/customs of the Mexican Mafia and Sureno gangs. Current trends involving Merced County, specifically Los Banos.
3. Bloods & Crips
 - (a) History, breakdown from creation of Black gangs in Los Angeles, symbols/signs, characteristics/customs of the Bloods and Crip gangs. Current cliques and sets of both Bloods and Crips within Merced County. Current trends within Merced County
4. Drop Out Gangs
 - (a) Riders drop out gang history, breakdown, symbols/signs, characteristics/ customs of the Rider Movement, rules and conduct, CCO's, current influence and trends within Merced County
5. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs
 - (a) Hells Angels OMG history, breakdown, signs/symbols, process in membership, rules/conduct, and involvement in Merced County
6. White Gangs
 - (a) Aryan Brotherhood history, breakdown, signs/symbols
 - (b) Dos Palos Diamonds history, breakdown, signs/symbols, influential members and involvement/presence in Merced County

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7. Emphasis on Los Banos gangs and gang trends
 - (a) Norteno presence in Los Banos
 - (b) Violence in Los Banos involving Norteno gang members
 - (c) Influential Norteno gang members within Los Banos
 - (d) Sureno presence in Los Banos
 - (e) Violence in Los Banos involving Sureno gang members
 - (f) Influential Sureno gang members within Los Banos
 - (g) Riders presence in Los Banos
 - (h) Violence in Los Banos involving Rider gang members.

(B) Topic 2: Techniques and Methods in Interviewing Gang Members:

1. Importance of respect
2. Rapport Building
3. Preparing for interviews/interrogation
4. Techniques in questioning gang members
5. Methods in how to obtain gang admissions and gain knowledge
6. Common responses and characteristics of gang members
7. Techniques in Debriefing Gang Members
8. Gang customs and practices
9. Gang behavior
10. Videos of gang members speaking and debriefing

(C) Topic 3: Gang Documentation & Enforcement:

1. Explain the reasoning in documenting and validating gang members
2. Explain the process in how to document gang members and their behavior including reports and field interview cards
3. Signs and Indicators of gang membership and association
4. Criteria to follow as a guideline to validate an individual as a gang member/associate
5. A full breakdown of each criteria
6. Common responses/actions from gang members and examples
7. Merced PD's methods and practices in documenting and validating gang members

(D) Social Media:

1. Videos and pictures of gang members utilizing social media
2. Current social media outlets gang members are using
3. Methods in monitoring gang members on social media
4. Case Law in creating an undercover account
5. Documentation of gang members on social media

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6. Current trends

(E) Topic 4: Graffiti:

1. Breakdown of what it means
2. Indicators to look for in specific graffiti
3. The importance of documenting graffiti

(F) Topic 5: 186.22 PC:

1. Breakdown of 186.22 PC
2. Active Participation
3. Gang Enhancements
4. Prosecution of gang members
5. Samples of Scenarios
6. Pattern of Criminal gang activity
7. Guns/Narcotics scenarios
8. S.T.E.P Act
9. 186.22 PC as it relates to interviewing gang members/associates
10. Techniques and methods in utilizing 186.22 PC in obtaining stronger gang statements

(G) Topic 6: Miranda Advisement Importance:

1. Breakdown of Miranda as it relates to gang admissions and statements
2. Current trend of cases involving Miranda issues/concerns
3. Scenarios provided on Miranda and when it is required

(H) Topic 7: Gang Expert Testimony:

1. Voir Dire
2. Qualifications of an Expert Witness
3. Training and experience to assist a Gang Expert
4. Parameters of Expert Opinion
5. Expectations of Gang Experts
6. Gang Law Update
7. Examples provided in testifying as a Gang Expert
8. Trial issues common to gang cases
9. Script for Gang Expert Testimony and Mock Trials

(I) Topic 8: Case Law:

1. People vs Rodriguez
2. People vs Elizalde
3. People vs Prunty

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4. People vs Sanchez
5. People vs Ochoa
6. People vs Martinez
7. People vs Killebrew
8. Breakdown of case law and examples