

Notify Originating Agency (NOA)

When entering a GMC record in the NCIC Gang File, an originating agency may place a code in the record that directs the system to return a message to the originating agency whenever another agency gets a hit on the originating agency's record. The NOA is another feature of the Gang File that encourages agencies to share information concerning criminal gangs in which agencies have a common interest.

Security

The NCIC Gang File records are Law Enforcement Sensitive and must be afforded the same security precautions as criminal history record information. All records in the NCIC are governed by the standards and restrictions set forth in the *CJIS Security Policy* (December 2008) and in the *NCIC Operating Manual* (December 1999).

Agencies interested in participating in the Gang File should contact their state's CJIS Systems Agency (CSA). The FBI maintains a current listing of CSAs; for contact information, telephone (304) 625-2404. Law Enforcement Online subscribers may access the list online at https://www.leo.gov/http://leowcs.leopriv.gov/lesig/cjis/contact_lists.html.

Information contained in *The Gang File* brochure is Law Enforcement Sensitive and should not be disseminated beyond criminal justice personnel.

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Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division



The FBI designed the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Gang File to provide law enforcement with identifying information about violent criminal gangs and their members. The Gang File has a threefold function:

1. To warn local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement officers of the potential danger posed by violent gang members with whom they may come in contact.
2. To promote the interagency exchange of information about these gangs.
3. To identify a point of contact for agencies seeking information about these gangs or individuals.

The Gang File is a useful information resource for law enforcement in its efforts to combat the criminal activities of violent gangs.

The Gang File consists of two major components—the Group Reference Capability (GRC) and the Group Member Capability (GMC). The GRC provides information on criminal gangs, and the GMC identifies the individuals who participate in these gangs.

Criteria for Entry into the Gang File GRC

In classifying a group as a gang, an agency must adhere strictly to the established entry criteria and document the information supporting the entry. In order to designate a group of individuals as a gang and enter the information into the Gang File, an agency must be able to document the following two verifiable criteria:

1. The group must be an ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons.

2. The group must have a common interest and/or activity characterized by the commission of, or involvement in, a pattern of *criminal activity or delinquent conduct*.

Criminal activity or delinquent conduct includes narcotics distribution, firearms or explosives violations, murder, extortion, obstruction of justice (including witness intimidation and/or tampering), and any other violent offenses such as assault, threats, robbery, and/or carjacking. *Criminal activity* includes acts committed during incarceration that are often labeled disruptive and that could be punished as crimes. *Delinquent conduct* encompasses any juvenile behavior that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

The Gang File Group Records

The NCIC assigns each qualifying group a unique NCIC identifying record number and maintains information about the group, such as known criminal activities, in the record. The main function of the GRC, however, is to identify agencies that are able to provide more details on a specific gang. Once an agency has entered a new gang record in the NCIC, other agencies that may have information about that group can add their own contact information to the record.

Agencies interested in having a group code activated may contact the Investigative and Operational Assistance Unit of the FBI's CJIS Division at e-mail address: vgtofcodes@leo.gov.

Criteria for Entry into the Gang File GMC

Before entering a record for an individual into the Gang File, agencies must ensure the subject has admitted membership in the gang at the time of incarceration, or has been identified as a gang member by an authorized penal organization

(authorization must be obtained from the FBI's Office of General Counsel), or meets any two of the following criteria:

- Has been identified by an individual of proven reliability as a gang member.
- Has been identified by an individual of unknown reliability as a gang member and that information has been corroborated in significant respects.
- Has been observed by members of the entering agency to frequent a known gang's area, associate with known gang members, and/or affect the gang's style of dress, tattoos, hand signals, or symbols.
- Has been arrested on more than one occasion with known gang members for offenses consistent with group activity.
- Has admitted membership in the identified gang at any time other than arrest or incarceration.

The Gang File Member Records

The NCIC will not accept a record on an individual gang member unless the system contains an active GRC record on the group with which the individual is associated. After an agency has entered the group's record, it can use the GMC to enter mandatory identifying data including the member's name, sex, race, gang affiliation, and at least one identifying number such as a date of birth, driver's license, or an FBI or military identification number. The agency may also enter optional physical descriptors such as height, weight, eye and hair colors, and place of birth. Additionally, the agency has the option of entering caution indicators and certain vehicle information that may further increase the safety of officers. Routine persons inquiries of NCIC also check the Gang File.