



SALT LAKE AREA GANG PROJECT
A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL GANG INTELLIGENCE, SUPPRESSION & DIVERSION UNIT
3365 South 900 West • Salt Lake City, Utah 84119
Phone #385-468-9770 • Fax #385-468-9660

Juvenile Gang Tattoo Removal Information Sheet

The Salt Lake Area Gang Project (SLAGP), in conjunction with the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Utah Medical Center coordinates a tattoo removal program for juveniles. The program was started in April 2010 to allow former youth gang members to finalize their break with the gang lifestyle by having gang related tattoos removed. The SLAGP will screen applicants to determine their eligibility for the program. Screening may include a criminal background check and verification of any information provided on the application form. Once a person is accepted into the program, the SLAGP will verify completion of required community service hours and take photographs of any tattoos to be removed. The SLAGP will refer all eligible applicants to the University of Utah Medical Center at which point the SLAGP will have no further responsibility for or involvement with the applicant.

The University of Utah Medical Center provides free of charge physicians, technicians, and equipment necessary to provide this service. The number of visits required to remove a tattoo depends on a variety of factors, including that tattoo's size and the colors and types of ink used. Some may be removed in as few as two visits while others may require several. The procedure can only be repeated every six weeks. Tattoo removal is a slow process but for those who are committed to breaking free from their former, destructive lifestyle, it is worth it.

Interested applicants should obtain an application form, either from our web site (www.choosegangfree.com) or by calling 385-468-9770. The completed form should be returned to the Salt Lake Area Gang Project, 3365 South 900 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84119, ATTN: Tattoo Removal Program. The form can also be submitted to the individuals' Choose Gang Free case manager. The following criteria are used to determine eligibility. The applicant must:

- ☐ **Successfully** complete all requirements of Choose Gang Free (CGF) – minimum of 16-20 weeks of evidence-based programming
- ☐ **Have** written parent/legal guardian permission
- ☐ **Reside** in the State of Utah for at least 6 months
- ☐ **Not** be involved with any gang members
- ☐ **Not** have been arrested or had any criminal activity for 3 months following any incarceration, parole, probation, and/or an active treatment center prior to applying.
- ☐ **Have** a written recommendation from their Probation Officer or Case Worker if currently on Probation/Parole.
- ☐ **Be** under the age of 18 (17 or younger) when application is approved
- ☐ **Have** no unresolved issues with the courts (fines, bail, etc.)
- ☐ **Submit** digital or 35mm photos of any tattoos that are to be removed. The tattoos **must** be gang related.
- ☐ **Incarcerated** individuals will be considered on a case-by-case basis after a referral from Juvenile Justice Youth Services (JJYS)
 - Individuals in JJYS custody must
 - Consult with their JJYS case manager prior to referral
 - Provide current level and progression towards completion of their risk items.
 - Maintain level 4 for a MINIMUM of 90 days prior to applying
 - Have no gang related or major incidents for a MINIMUM of 6 months prior to applying

ANYONE WITH OUTSTANDING WARRANTS &/OR PICK UP ORDERS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE. THE APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE APPLICATION CAN BE ACCEPTED. FAILURE TO COMPLETE ANY ONE OF THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS WILL RESULT IN THE DENIAL OF YOUR TATTOO REMOVAL REQUEST. WRITTEN PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN PERMISSION IS MANDATORY.

Applicants will be notified by mail whether their application is accepted or rejected. Individuals whose applications are accepted may be required to schedule a pre-screening interview with the Salt Lake Area Gang Project (SLAGP). Applicants will be referred to the University of Utah Medical Center after they have completed their community service hours. The University of Utah Medical Center will then contact the applicant to schedule an appointment. The SLAGP is not involved in the relationship between the applicant and the University of Utah Medical Center. Once approved, it is the responsibility of the applicant to keep appointments and follow instructions from the University of Utah Medical Center staff.