



Office of Legislative Corrections Ombudsman

Keith Barber
Ombudsman

*Boji Tower – 4th Floor
124 West Allegan
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
(Office) 517-373-8573
(Fax) (517)373-5550*

Security Threat Groups (STG)

The following is based on Policy Directive 04.04.113 “Security Threat Groups.”

Prisoners are prohibited from being members of a STG. A STG is a group of prisoners that have been designated by the Director of the MDOC as possessing common characteristics which separate them from other prisoners and which pose a threat to staff, other prisoners, or the custody and security of a correctional facility.

Prisoners are screened for gang activity upon reception; any gang involvement is documented. There is one MDOC Central Office STG Coordinator in charge of compiling and disseminating STG information, and coordinating all STG tracking and monitoring. A STG Coordinator is also designated at each facility by the Warden.

STG Designation

1. Some of the factors used to identify a STG include:
 - a. History and purpose of the group;
 - b. Organizational structure of the group;
 - c. Propensity for violence or specific/intended acts of violence that can easily be attributed to the group;
 - d. Illegal or prohibited acts which can be attributed to the group;
 - e. Demographics of the group, including group numbers, pattern of expansion (i.e., recruitment) or decline in group membership;
 - f. Existence of any written material that displays group symbols, such as bylaws, chain-of-command, membership lists, etc.; or
 - g. Any other relevant information which appears to have identifying characteristics (e.g., monikers, tattoos, self-admission).
2. Methods of identifying a prisoner’s membership in an STG may include:
 - a. Possession or display of STG items, such as by-laws, chain of command, membership lists, symbols, colors, or pictures of a STG;
 - b. Self-admission;
 - c. Identification in a STG membership list; or
 - d. Association with STG members.

Types of STG Designations

1. **STG I Member**: designation applied to prisoners when there is sufficient documentation to be designated as an STG member. The process for designating a prisoner as STG I:
 - a. Facility STG Coordinator completes the STG Member Identification form (CSJ-102).

- b. Facility STG Coordinator interviews the prisoner, including a review of the form.
- c. If the prisoner renounces STG membership, and the facility STG Coordinator finds this credible, the prisoner will sign a STG Renunciation/Removal from (CSJ-128) and the STG Member form will NOT be processed.
- d. Otherwise, the STG Coordinator will forward the completed STG Member form to the Central Office STG Coordinator.
- e. The prisoner will be placed in a Level II or higher until a final determination is made.
- f. The Central Office STG Coordinator will make the final determination on designating a prisoner as STG and will complete the STG Member form.
- g. A copy of the form will be given to the prisoner and other staff, as appropriate.
- h. If a prisoner has renounced STG membership and subsequently engages in STG activity, the local STG Coordinator will interview the prisoner again but the prisoner will NOT have the opportunity to renounce membership.

2. STG II Member:

- a. STG II designation can be applied when:
 - i. A prisoner currently designated a STG I member is subsequently found guilty of a major misconduct related to STG activity;
 - ii. A prisoner currently or previously designated as STG I presents a threat to the safety of staff, prisoners, or the order and security of the facility; or
 - iii. A prisoner is identified as a leader, enforcer or recruiter in a STG.
- b. The process for designating a prisoner STG II is:
 - i. If the facility STG Coordinator believes a prisoner should be designated STG II, he/she will forward the STG Member form to the Central Office STG Coordinator.
 - ii. The Central Office STG Coordinator will make the final determination.
 - iii. At the time of the referral, a transfer request to a Level V facility will be made pending the determination of the Central Office STG Coordinator.
 - iv. The Central Office STG Coordinator must document his/her decision on the STG Member form and notify the facility STG Coordinator of the decision.
 - v. Upon designation as STG II, the Central Office Coordinator will notify staff to submit a transfer order to transfer the prisoner to a Level V facility. The prisoner may be placed in segregation consistent with PD 04.05.120.
 - vi. A copy of the STG Member form will be given to the prisoner and appropriate staff.

Consequences for STG Membership

1. STG I Member:

- a. Housed in security Level II or higher.
- b. Prisoner may not be placed in an open bay or dormitory setting.
- c. Limit of 3 visits per month, not including attorney and clergy visits.
- d. Work or school assignments have to be approved by the CFA Deputy Director.
- e. Not allowed to attend meetings of groups established by prisoners, except for services and activities of the prisoner's designated religion.
- f. Not allowed to participate in group leisure time activities, except for yard. Also prohibited from participating in scheduled activities during yard (e.g., intramural and league games).
- g. Search of the prisoner's cell at least once a week.

2. STG II Member:

- a. Housed in Level V, unless classified to administrative segregation.

- b. Limit of 2 non-contact visits per month (one hour each), not including attorney and clergy visits.
- c. Work or school assignments have to be approved by the CFA Deputy Director.
- d. Not allowed to attend meetings of groups established by prisoners, except for services and activities of the prisoner's designated religion.
- e. Not allowed to participate in group leisure time activities, except for yard. Also prohibited from participating in scheduled activities during yard (e.g., intramural and league games).
- f. Search of the prisoner's cell at least twice a week.
- g. Out-of-cell movement cannot exceed a total of one hour per day, not including movement for showers, meals, work and school assignments, religious services, law library, group counseling or therapy, and attorney/clergy visits.

Appealing an STG Designation

A prisoner with a STG designation may file a grievance regarding the basis of the designation, according to Policy Directive 03.02.130 "Prisoner/Parolee Grievances."

Removal of an STG Designation

A prisoner designated as STG can request removal of the designation by renouncing membership and completing the Security Threat Group Renunciation/Removal form (CSJ-128). This form should be forwarded to the facility STG Coordinator, who may interview the prisoner. The request for STG designation removal must be approved by the facility STG Coordinator, Warden and Central Office STG Coordinator, in that order. Removal of STG II designations must receive additional approval by the CFA Deputy Director.

*A prisoner may be re-designated as a STG member at any time based on new activity or information.

Parole/Discharge

The facility STG Coordinator will notify the Central Office STG Coordinator and local law enforcement when an STG prisoner is discharged or paroled. If paroling, the local STG Coordinator will also notify the supervising field agent.