



Break the Chains!

GRIP

Gang Response and Intervention Program

Tattoo Removal Program

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Tattoo Removal Program

The program goal is to assist youth in rebuilding their future through positive lifestyle changes. One step is through laser removal of gang tattoos that are visible.

Prior to acceptance to the tattoo removal program the youth must have completed the components of transitions that will take them from a gang-involved lifestyle to a contributing community member. Tattoo removal is one of the next necessary steps toward successful change and a reward for completing the rehabilitation process.

This is a collaborative effort that involves:

- Children & Youth Resources
- Longmont Municipal Probation
- 20th Judicial District
- Longmont Community Justice Partnership
- Longmont Gang Unit
- Longmont Teen Clinic
- Longmont Police
- Boulder County Social Services
- Community Relations
- El Comite
- St.Vrain Valley Schools
- Alternatives for Youth
- Boulder County AIDS Project

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Tattoo Removal Program

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Criteria for Acceptance into Tattoo Removal Program

1. Individuals will be accepted on a referral basis. An intake and initial assessment is done by the GRIP coordinator, who then will present to the GRIP committee for review and approval. The referring agency will update and certify before each session that participant maintains the terms of the contract. Referring agency should be involved with the youth in a supervisory position (i.e. parole or probation officer, counselor, educator, community advocate, etc.). Self referral or referrals from family members do not qualify.
2. Participants must be enrolled in school or be employed. GRIP staff will verify employment or schooling.
3. Individuals must have successfully completed the majority of intervention or rehabilitation program that address lifestyle changes. A GRIP program and/or a program offered by a collaborative partner (i.e. probation or parole department). This is subject to verification and final approval by GRIP committee.
4. Parents/guardians must have successfully completed the majority of the parent support component and present future plans for supporting and maintaining the youth's new lifestyle. Parent/guardian will be encouraged to actively participate in community service hours; this will be coordinated with the assistance of the GRIP coordinator. Before each session parents will be required to update the GRIP coordinator regarding the status of the youth and family status in sustain the change.
5. Youth must be accompanied by a GRIP representative and, if possible parent or guardian for each laser surgery session.
6. This program is for youth who are between the ages of 11 to 19 and/or either residents of the City of Longmont and/or students of St. Vran Valley School District
7. Community Service Hours-youth must have completed 25 hours prior to entering the program.
8. The youth must submit a written essay, (1-2 page), describing these three stages of gang life:
 - How and why did you get involved in a gang?
 - How did being involved in gangs change your life?
 - What is your plan for making your life permanently gang free?

Exclusion Criteria

1. Individuals will be excluded from the laser treatment program if they are late, or miss one appointment without calling or prior notice. Time frame to be determined by Doctors office.
2. Evidence of drug or alcohol use or abuse will lead to exclusion from laser treatment.
3. Arrest and/or incarceration may lead to exclusion from the laser treatment program.
4. Additional evidence/incidents that youth is gang associated or additional new tattoos may lead to exclusion from the laser treatment program.
5. Additional evidence/incidents that youth are involved in any violent or criminal activity.
6. Lack of commitment and cooperation on the family's part can result in exclusion.
7. Medical issues or concerns may be a reason for exclusion. This determination will made by the physician/medical partners in the laser treatment program.
8. Family involvement in drug, alcohol use/abuse, violence or criminal activity that is impacting the youth's ability in maintaining a new lifestyle or creating challenges in this area can result in exclusion.

Rules for Tattoo Removal Procedures

1. Underage kids need to be with their parents on the day of the procedure. No exceptions.
2. Be on time.
3. Have the right attitude. The service is free to youth and therefore youth should be respectful and grateful.
4. Waiver will be signed that if youth participates in gangs after the procedure; youth will need to pay \$350 per session attended.
5. First step is to have a consultation with the Dr. so that he can meet youth.
6. 20 minute sessions per youth.
7. Back to back appointments are possible.
8. Appointments are the 3rd Thursday of every month.
9. Youth will be required to purchase a \$50 Lotion on day of Consultation.
10. If cancelling appointment; do at least two days in advance through GRIP staff.

INFORMATION ON PROCEDURE

Before the Procedure:

- Stop all skin-care products containing tretinoin (Retin-A) and AHA's (glycolic acid) seven days before your procedure.
- Do not schedule important social activities, meetings, etc., after the procedure. Most patients' skin returns to normal by the following day. However, if you have sensitive skin and/or rosacea, you can have swelling and redness for several days! Sunspots will darken and flake off in one week.
- Take 600-800mg ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) the morning of the procedure with food. If you cannot tolerate ibuprofen, then take 650-1000mg Tylenol.
- Arrive without makeup or be prepared to remove makeup in the office.

After the Procedure:

- Do not use Retin-A, Differin, retinol, scrubs, or any exfoliatives for one week after the laser procedure.
- Take ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) or Tylenol for pain.
- If you have swelling on your face and neck, apply cool compresses every hour.
- Apply Aquaphor ointment or aloe vera to the treated areas 3x/day until the skin becomes normal. If significant crusting or ulceration occurs, change to a topical antibiotic ointment (e.g. Bacitracin, Neomycin, etc.)
- Protecting your skin after laser treatments:
 - A sunblock containing zinc oxide is recommended, and is available through our office. This should be applied to your face every morning, even if it is cloudy outside.
 - Avoid the sun between 10am and 2pm.
 - Wear a wide brimmed hat.

Tattoo Removal

- Topical anesthetic cream (LMX 4, LMX 5)
 - Purchase LMX from the office; it is cheaper than the pharmacy.
 - Apply a thick layer of LMX4 cream to the areas that are being treated one hour before your appointment. Cover the LMX4 with saran wrap, which increases the penetration of the topical anesthetic.
- Take 600-800mg ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) the morning of the procedure with food. If you cannot tolerate ibuprofen, then take 650-1000mg Tylenol.
- After the treatment, apply Aquaphor healing ointment 3x/day or more and cover with a Telfa non-adhesive gauze. It will take 5-7 days for the skin to completely heal.
- Anticipate 5-10 treatments every 1-2 months

Call the doctor's office for:

Infection, Ulceration, Redness, Increased pigmentation, Fevers, Pain, and Scarring

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Community Service Hours Form

I certify that _____ has completed hours,
Name of Participant

Of community service at _____
Community Organization

On the following dates: _____

Agency Representative Name: _____

Agency Representative Signature: _____

Contact Number: _____

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This is a collaborative effort that involves medical professionals, as part of City-community collaborative. For further information please contact ***Pattie Moreno at GRIP – 303-774-3754.***

Tattoo Removal Intake

(Please fill out w/ youth and family. Return to GRIP)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ D.O.B. _____

Sex: Male Female

School and Grade: _____

If employed, where and how long? _____

Parent/Guardian Names: _____

Address if different than youth: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Language Spoken: English Spanish

Relationship to youth: _____

Do you understand how the tattoo laser removal program works, treatment lengths and what it feels like? Yes No

Do you understand the guidelines to qualify, and those for exclusion? Yes No

Is there any reason you do not qualify at this moment? _____

If yes, please explain:

How many tattoos do you have in the qualified areas, (shoulders down, neck, face, knees down)? _____

How many are gang related? _____

What was your main reason for getting the tattoos? _____

What gang did you belong to? _____

Are you still an active member? Yes No

If Yes, this interview is over

If NO, how long have you been disassociated? _____

What influenced you to get into the gang? (older brother, cousins, friends)

How often do you talk or see them?

How do they feel about your change of life?

Does it matter to you how they feel?

How has/have your tattoos made a difference in your life?

Outside of the tattoo removal, what are some of the other changes you have made to change your lifestyle?

After your tattoo removal, describe what you would do to focus on to continue your life transition.

Community Service is a way to give back and re-introduce yourself to the community, what kind of community service would you like to do?

Parent/Family/Guardian Intake Section

(Please fill out with youth and family. Return to GRIP)

Do you understand how the laser tattoo removal program works? Yes No

How much of the parent/family component has been completed?

Do you have any concerns or questions regarding laser removal?

Are there any needs or issues that we need to address in assisting the youth/family in this lifestyles change?

What part will the family take in supporting the youth in this life transition?

Family is responsible for arranging for transportation to and from appointments. Can you agree to this? Yes No

Be advised that there may be some minor associated medical expenses that the youth/family will be responsible for such as medicated cream or other prescribed medications. Will this be a problem? Yes No

Comments:

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Committee Review Form

(GRIP Use ONLY)

Referral Agency/Person and Contact Info: _____

Does youth have any pending criminal charges or conditions?

Has the youth completed the gang intervention or other rehabilitation programs? If No what portion of the program has been completed? When?

At intake, what was the youth's commitment level: LOW MEDIUM HIGH

Is there a support system in place for the youth? Yes No

Please explain:

GRIP Use ONLY