

La Nuestra Familia

La Nuestra Familia (Spanish for “Our Family”) prison gang controls Northern California prison cell blocks and neighborhoods. It earns profits through robbery, murder for hire, and various other criminal exploits, though its most important source of revenue is narcotics distribution. Inmates established the gang in the 1960’s. To do so, the gang’s founders wrote “The Supreme Power Structure of La Nuestra Familia,” a lengthy criminal constitution that details the structure and operational protocols of La Nuestra Familia’s criminal organization.

Gang constitutions enumerate the most critical expectations of members’ behavior. Criminal constitutions regulate individual behaviors that are privately beneficial (to the gang member) but harmful to the organization. Leaders of a criminal organization may use their positions of authority to prey on lower-ranking members.

Directions: While reading through La Nuestra Familia constitution, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Article 1: Identify the following about the Supreme Commander (the gang leader):

1. The primary requirement to be the Supreme Commander

A.

2. His powers and duties:

A.

B.

How can the Supreme Commander be impeached? Who do you think "the captains" are?

Article II:

A citizen of Nuestra Familia is called a _____.

Constitutions often have requirements for "the **betterment**" or **welfare** of its citizens. List 1 way the Nuestra Familia constitution claims that it provides for the betterment/welfare of its gang members.

1.

Article II (continued):

The Nuestra Familia provides limited privileges but requires many duties of its gang members. Other than the "sacred duty" (in Article VI.), list and explain at least 3 more.

1.

2.

3.

Article VI.

In complete sentences, describe the "sacred duty" of each gang member?

List 2 ways a familianos demonstrates or shows complete devotion to Nuestra Familia.

1.

2.

Why do you think the Nuestra Familia constitution mandates that familianos not "boast" or feel "entitlement"? In other words, how is it beneficial for the common good of Nuestra Familia to have such devotion and compliance (agreement) of its familianos? Explain in at least 3 sentences.

The Supreme Power Structure of Nuestra Familia

Article 1: Supreme Commander

Section I.

-The Nuestro General (NG) is the supreme power in the organization known as La Nuestra Familia. His power shall have no limit.

-Solely he can declare war for the entire, and once in a state of war, peace shall not prevail until the announcement from the NG.

Section II.

-NG will be automatically released from any duties and responsibilities upon receiving a date of one year or less.

Section III.

-NG will be a seasoned experienced warrior. This qualification is mandatory in order to hold this high office. When the time comes for the NG to pick a successor, he will do so from the ranks of commanders at his disposal.

Section IV.

-NG may be impeached from office where it is the opinion of all commanders holding office at that time that he isn't working in the best interest of the organization. This can be derived from a petition or document with signatures in each captain's own writing.

Article II. Objectives and bylaws of Nuestra Familia

Section I.

-The primary purpose and goals of this gang is for the betterment of its members and the building up of this gang on the outside into a strong and self-supporting familia.

Section II.

-All members will work solely for this objective and will put all personal goals and feelings aside until said fulfillment is accomplished.

Section III.

- A familianos will not be released from his obligation towards the gang because he is released from prison, but will work twice as hard to see that a familia is established and works in hand with the gang already established behind the walls (jail).

Section IV.

- A familianos will remain a member until death or otherwise discharged from the gang.

-He will always be subject to put the best interest of the gang first and always above everything else, in prison or out.

Section V.

-An automatic death sentence will be put on a familianos that turns coward, traitor or deserter. -Under no other circumstances will a brother familiano be responsible for spilling the blood of another familiano. To do so will be considered an act of treason.

Article VI. Discipline and Conduct.

Section IV.

-Under no conditions will there be fighting between familianos. To do so will bring on disciplinary action and if blood is spilled, it will result in the expulsion of one or all parties involved.

Section V.

-No member of this gang shall put material things, whether it be drugs, money, women, or punks (as related to the jail) before the best interest of La Nuestra Familia or a familianos.

Section VI.

-No familiano shall lie about his position in La Nuestra Familia nor when discussing familianos business to a superior or a brother member. There shall be no lying or giving false impressions. **Section VI.**

-It is the *sacred duty* of a familianos guerrero to do battle for La Nuestra Familia, and no member should feel that because he fought for his gang that he is entitled to special privileges. All that matters is that you as a guerrero of La Nuestra Familia are living up to your responsibilities.

-Remember that a true guerrero does not need to boast of his accomplishments.

Section VII.

-Under no circumstances is any of this constitution to be altered without notification of the SC and one third of his captain's staff, nor shall a familiano or familianos regiment put their own interpretations upon said constitution.