

# PERJURY CHARGE UNDERScores RISK OF USING SNITCHES IN GANG CASES

## 'a necessary evil'

Using informants, or snitches, is an important tool in the fight against violent crimes and gangs. Prosecutors face a continuing struggle to determine whether snitches are reliable.

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**By Tim McGlone**  
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### NORFOLK

At his sentencing last summer, Darnyell White, known as "Putt," admitted being a member of the Bounty Hunter Bloods but was adamant that he did not take part in the armed robbery of a gas station and several other violent acts.

Sorry, government prosecutors said.

One of our snitches said you did and we want you to serve even more prison time, they said before a judge. White begged for leniency, but got 20 years.

Now, the government says a key witness against White lied, implicating several Bloods, including its one-time leader, in crimes they did not commit.

The witness, Roderick A. Cotton Jr., 23, was indicted on a federal count of lying to a grand jury. The case had been under seal until he was brought to court April 22. At

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