	<b>Grayson County Sheriff's Office</b>		
	<b>Tattoo's and Body Art</b>		<b>General Order 2.06A</b>
	<b>Effective Date: 02-13-19</b>	<b>Revision Date: 01-01-25</b>	<b>Pages - 3</b>

## I. POLICY STATEMENT

The Grayson County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) places value on the appearance of its members. In order to more fully protect the reputation and maintain integrity of the members and the agency this policy establishes guidelines for tattoos, body art and brands.

## II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for displaying tattoos and body art by members while on or off duty in uniform or on duty in civilian attire.

## III. POLICY

It is the policy of the GCSO that tattoos or body art that are prejudicial to good order are prohibited. Additionally, while on or off duty in uniform or on duty in civilian attire, members are prohibited from exhibiting tattoos or body art that are offensive or demeaning to persons with ordinary sensibilities. This policy may be rescinded or modified at any time by the Sheriff or his designee.

## IV. DEFINITIONS

**Body modification:** defined as deliberate altering of the human anatomy or human physical appearance.

**Brand:** defined as a picture, design, or other marking that is burned into the skin or other areas of the body. Body markings are pictures, designs or other markings as a result of using means other than burning to permanently scar or mark the skin.

**Extremist:** extremist tattoos or brands are those affiliated with, depicting, or symbolizing extremist philosophies, organizations, or activities. Extremist philosophies, organizations, and activities are those which advocate hatred or intolerance based on race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, economic status, age or disability; advocate create, or engage in illegal discrimination based on race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, economic status, age or disability; or advocate violence or other unlawful means of depriving individual rights under the U.S. Constitution, and Federal or State Law.

**Indecent:** indecent tattoos or brands are those that depict nudity or are offensive to modesty, decency, propriety, or professionalism.

**Political:** relating to the symbols, causes, ideas or strategies of a particular party or group in politics, including special interest groups.

**Racist:** racist tattoos or brands are those that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person or group of people based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.

**Sexist:** sexist tattoos or brands are those that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person or group of people based on gender.

**Tattoo/body art:** defined as a picture, design, or marking made on the skin or other areas of the body by staining it with dye, or by any other method including pictures designs or markings only detectible or visible under certain conditions (as in an ultraviolet light or invisible ink tattoo). The term tattoo and body art are interchangeable.

For definitions and restrictions for jewelry or other body modifications that are not defined in this policy refer to [General Order 2.06 Uniforms and Appearance](#).


## **V. TATTOOS/BODY ART/BRANDS AND BODY MODIFICATIONS PROHIBITED OR REQUIRED TO BE CONCEALED**

- A. The following tattoos, body art, and brands are prejudicial to good order and are prohibited for all members, regardless of visibility:
  - 1. Extremist
  - 2. Indecent
  - 3. Sexist
  - 4. Racist
  - 5. Any tattoo/body art or brand that implies a negative bias toward any group or individual.
  - 6. Symbols or marking likely to elicit a strong negative reaction in the workplace or public or that are inconsistent with the agency's values or community relations objectives, including but not limited to symbols or markings that promote or are associated with violence or weaponry;
  - 7. Anything contrary to the purpose of law enforcement, including, but not limited to: depictions symbolizing or indicative of alcohol or narcotics, illegal or gang related activity, or symbols suggestive of activity that undermines the purpose of law enforcement.
  - 8. Any tattoo's that are not considered business appropriate by the Chief Deputy.
- B. Members are prohibited from having tattoos on any part of the hands, neck, face, head, eyelids, mouth, and ears with the following exceptions:
  - 1. Tattoo of one wedding band on a ring finger;
  - 2. Permanent facial make-up on the eyebrows, eyeline, and lips that is business appropriate.
  - 3. The Chief Deputy may approve small and/or inconspicuous tattoos that do not diminish or distract from the professional appearance of the member or applicant.
- C. All brands must be concealed while in uniform, on or off duty or on duty in civilian attire.
- D. The agency reserves the right to require members to conceal their tattoo/body art or brands if deemed necessary to comport with evolving community standards, attitudes, or beliefs. This policy and its exceptions do not grant permanent approval to display any tattoos/body art or brands subsequently deemed unacceptable for display and members may be required to cover them at any time.

- E. The following tattoos/body art and brands must be concealed in accordance with this policy while in uniform, on or off duty or on duty in civilian attire:
  - 1. Anything contrary to the purpose of law enforcement, including, but not limited to: depictions symbolizing or indicative of alcohol or narcotics, illegal or gang related activity, or symbols suggestive of activity that undermines the purpose of law enforcement;
  - 2. Illustrations, references, symbols, acronyms or the like that denigrate the United States, State of Texas, or the Grayson County Sheriff's Office;
  - 3. Symbols or markings that represent political beliefs, political parties, political slogans, or that cast any political group in a negative light.

## **VI. AUTHORIZATION FOR VISIBLE TATTOOS/BODY ART**

- A. Prospective members:
  - 1. Employment packages will include the information on all tattoos/body art of the applicant to ensure the applicant does not have any tattoo/body art that is prohibited by this policy;
  - 2. The Chief Deputy or Sheriff will make the final determination as to whether an applicant's tattoos/body art comply with this policy.
- B. Tattoos that must be concealed under this policy must be kept entirely from view by the authorized uniform or plainclothes when a member represents the agency on duty or off duty.
- C. If when considering a new tattoo, a member is in doubt about the tattoo/body art being in compliance with this policy, the member should submit the design to the Chief Deputy for approval.
- D. Any tattoo/body art that is believed to not conform to this policy should be brought to the attention of a supervisor. The supervisor will notify the Chief Deputy via the Chain of Command.
- E. Members employed on the effective date of this policy, with existing tattoos or body art must request approval via their chain of command from the Chief Deputy to display such tattoo while in uniform, on or off duty or on duty in civilian attire.
  - 1. Members must fill out and submit [2.06B Tattoo's and Body Art Compliance Form](#) and
  - 2. A memorandum requesting to display such tattoos.

  
Sheriff Wm. A. (Tony) Bennie