

Personal Appearance Standards

1042.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In order to project uniformity and neutrality toward the public and other members of the department, employees shall maintain their personal hygiene and appearance in a manner that projects a professional image appropriate for this department and for their assignment.

1042.2 GROOMING STANDARDS

Unless otherwise stated, and because deviations from these standards could present officer safety issues, the following appearance standards shall apply to all employees, except those whose current assignment would deem them not appropriate, and where the Sheriff has granted exception.

1042.2.1 HAIR

Hairstyles of all members shall be neat in appearance and of a naturally occurring human hair color. For male sworn members, hair must not extend below the top edge of the uniform collar while assuming a normal stance.

For female sworn members, hair must be no longer than shoulder level when worn down. Hair longer than shoulder level shall be worn up or in a tightly wrapped braid or ponytail.

1042.2.2 FACIAL HAIR

1. A goatee is defined as a small chin beard connected to a mustache and neatly trimmed. The growth of the goatee may not extend more than one inch below the bottom of the chin.
2. The goatee and mustache must follow the natural arch of the mouth.
3. A beard shall be worn with a mustache.
4. Beards shall be short, well-groomed and professional looking. The growth of the beard shall not be thicker than one-half inch; trimmed along the neck, throat and cheekbones and may not extend more than one-inch below the chin.
5. The beard/goatee shall be modified to accommodate department equipment when operationally required.
6. Supervisors will not attempt to measure an employee's facial hair but will use their best judgment and discretion to ensure the employee maintains a professional appearance. Accepting that the supervisor is acting in good faith, employees will comply with a supervisor's order to alter their facial hair to meet policy. Final decisions shall be at the discretion of the Division Lieutenant.

1042.2.3 FINGERNAILS

Fingernails extending beyond the tip of the finger can pose a safety hazard to deputies or others. For this reason, Deputies' and Corrections Officers' fingernails shall be trimmed so that no point of the nail extends more than one-eighth of an inch beyond the tip of the finger.

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1042.2.4 JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES

No jewelry or personal ornaments shall be worn by deputies or corrections officers on any part of the uniform or equipment, except those authorized within this manual. Jewelry, if worn around the neck, shall not be visible above the shirt collar.

Stud/post earrings may only be worn in the earlobe by female uniformed members, detectives or special assignment personnel except with permission of the Sheriff or his/her designee. Only one ring/set may be worn on each hand of the employee while on-duty.

1042.3 TATTOOS

1. At no time while the member is on duty or representing the Sheriff's Office in any capacity shall any offensive tattoo or body art be visible. Examples of offensive tattoos include, but are not limited to, those that exhibit or advocate discrimination; those that exhibit gang, supremacist, or extremist group affiliation; and those that depict or promote drug use, sexually explicit acts, or other obscene material or language.
2. No tattoos or body art will be allowed on a member's head, face or neck.

1042.4 BODY PIERCING OR ALTERATION

Body piercing or alteration to any area of the body visible in any authorized uniform or attire that is a deviation from normal anatomical features and which is not medically required is prohibited except with prior authorization of the Sheriff. Such body alteration includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Tongue splitting or piercing.
- (b) The complete or transdermal implantation of any material other than hair replacement.
- (c) Abnormal shaping of the ears, eyes, nose or teeth.
- (d) Branding or scarification.