



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY POLICIES & PROCEDURES



Subject: Tattoos and Body Piercings		Policy Number: ADM: 37
Revision Number: 02	Effective Date: 11/17/2025	Original Issue Date: 07/07/2006

1) PURPOSE

- a) The purpose of this policy is to promote employee safety and a necessity for a professional appearance of commissioned personnel and transportation inspectors of the Department of Public Safety.

2) POLICY

- a) It is the policy of the Department of Public Safety that its employees demonstrate a safe and professional appearance while on duty.

3) APPLICABILITY

- a) This policy applies to all commissioned personnel and transportation inspectors of the Department of Public Safety.

4) REFERENCES

- a) CALEA Chapter 26 Disciplinary Procedures

5) DEFINITIONS

- a) **Body Piercing** - Having a part of the body pierced in order to wear jewelry in the hole made.
- b) **Tattoo** - An indelible figure fixed upon the body especially by insertion of pigment under the skin. This policy also applies to temporary tattoos.

6) OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

- a) Employees are permitted to have body tattoo(s) and ornamental jewelry worn in the body piercing(s). However, they shall not be visible during any interaction with the public while working in an official capacity.
- b) Employees are required to cover all tattoo(s) and body piercing jewelry by wearing the appropriate long sleeve shirts, pants or other clothing.
 - i) Those employees who currently have tattoos or body piercing jewelry that cannot be covered with the common uniform shall cover the tattoos



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POLICIES & PROCEDURES**



with other materials, i.e. band aids, flesh-colored makeup, etc., and/or remove the body piercing jewelry.

- c) Due to safety concerns, piercing jewelry may be used to gain an advantage over an employee during an altercation or be snagged on vehicle/equipment during the course of their duties. All exposed body piercing jewelry will not be permitted to be worn during the performance of official duties.
- d) The only exception to this policy is as follows:
 - i) Commissioned Personnel, who are in an undercover role, are permitted to have visible tattoos/body piercing(s), as permitted by the Investigations Bureau Commander.
- e) Any deviation from this policy must be approved in advance by the Deputy Secretary of Operations, Chief of the New Mexico State Police, or his designee.

7) ATTACHMENTS

a) NONE

8) APPROVAL

APPROVED BY: _____

DPS Cabinet Secretary

DATE: _____

11/17/25