



Floyd County Sheriff's Department

Floyd County Police Policy & Procedure

General Order

Order Number: 2015-004	Policy Name: Body Art
Date Issued: 02-10-2015	Authorized By: Sheriff Frank Loop
Effective Date: 02-10-2015	Written By: Capt. Doug Standiford

PURPOSE:

To insure members of the Floyd County Sheriff's Department are presented to the public in a positive and professional manner.

NEW POLICY:

Body art is defined as procedures used to alter the body's appearance such as branding, piercing (other than the earlobe for standard earrings), scarification, tongue splitting or tattoos.

In order to present a positive and professional image to the community, body art on the hands, neck, face or any part of the head is prohibited. Members are prohibited from having visible body art, including tattoos, on any part of the body, while in uniform or while performing an official duty in non-uniformed attire, unless otherwise approved by the Sheriff or Chief of Police. This includes off-duty employment in an official capacity.

Sleeve tattoos are likewise prohibited. A sleeve tattoo is a very large tattoo, or a collection of smaller tattoos, that covers, or almost covers, a member's entire arm or leg. Half-sleeve or quarter-sleeve tattoos that are visible to the eye, while in uniform or while performing official duty in non-uniformed attire are likewise prohibited. A half-sleeve or quarter-sleeve tattoo is defined as a very large tattoo, or a collection of smaller tattoos that covers, or almost covers, the entire portion of an arm or leg above or below the elbow or knee.

Tattoos that are sexist, racist, vulgar, anti-social, gang-related, extremist group-related or may bring discredit upon the Floyd County Sheriff's Department are prohibited. Whether a tattoo's content is deemed appropriate or inappropriate, shall be at the discretion of the Sheriff or Chief of Police.

Members with prohibited body art have the following options:

- Cover the body art with clothing/uniform
- Cover the body art with a neutral colored patch or neutral colored elastic bandage
- Have the body art removed at the member's expense.

Members hired prior to January 1, 2015, who had a visible tattoo(s) before that date that may be prohibited by the above policy, may request an exemption from the Sheriff or Chief of Police. The Sheriff, Chief of Police, or his/her designee, shall review photographic evidence of the tattoo(s) and shall notify the employee if the tattoo(s) is considered to have inappropriate content or content not considered inappropriate. If the Sheriff, Chief of Police, or his/her designee, determines that the content of the tattoo(s) is inappropriate, the member shall be required to cover or remove the tattoo(s) as detailed above. If the Sheriff, Chief of Police, or his/her designee, determines that the content of the tattoo(s) is not considered inappropriate, the photographic documentation shall be placed in the member's medical file and the documented tattoo(s) shall be considered grandfathered and shall not need to be covered or removed as detailed above.