

4.4 Grooming Standards

The purpose of this directive is to establish grooming standards for Deputy Sheriffs. It is the policy of this office that deputies be well groomed and present a professional appearance to maintain the public's trust, respect, and esprit de corps. Both the self-esteem generated in the individual and the respect commanded from the public they serve promote the excellent reputation of the Office.

4.4.1 Hair Standards - Uniformed Deputies

Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed; the bulk of hair shall not be excessive or present an unkempt or extreme appearance. Hair styles shall not interfere with the proper wearing of Office headgear. Hair colors that are considered extreme or unnatural are prohibited. Wigs or hairpieces may be worn as long as they conform to the standards of this directive.

Hair that falls below the bottom edge of the shirt collar in the rear will be secured in a bun or ponytail. Braids, twists, cultivated locks, and corn rows will be styled conservatively, systematically, and close to the scalp. Ornamental hair accessories, beads, or any decorative items shall not be braided in the hair.

Sideburns shall be neatly trimmed at all times. The length of sideburns may extend below to a point straight and level with the midpoint of the ear.

4.4.2 Facial Hair

Mustaches, beards, and goatees are permitted. Beards and goatees must not exceed 1/4 inch in length. Mustaches must be neatly trimmed and shall not extend more than 1/4 inch below or beyond the line of the individual's upper lip. No eccentricity in the manner of wearing of a mustache will be permitted. Deputies may be required to shave for annual respirator (gas mask) fit tests or when the use of a respirator (gas mask) is likely. Deputies shall have a shaving kit readily available to remove facial hair.

4.4.3 Jewelry

Body-piercing jewelry that would be visible to the public is prohibited while on duty. This includes any jewelry that is worn as a result of piercing of the tongue, nose, eyebrows, face, or any other portion of the head or facial area.

Off-duty employees are prohibited from wearing any body-piercing jewelry that would be visible to the public when operating an Agency vehicle.

Necklaces or bracelets shall not be visible, except for *Medic-Alert* necklaces or bracelets. Deputies may wear one earring per ear, worn centered on the earlobe. Earrings may not extend beyond the earlobe, shall be relatively small in size, and of the muted/stud/post design. When worn, a symmetrically-matching set shall be worn.

4.4.4 Make-Up and Nail Polish

Make-up should be worn in such a manner as to compliment the uniform. No vibrant colors may be worn while in the performance of official duties.

Nail polish should be clear or soft colored. Colored nail polish should not be "bright" or "offensive," and designs on nails are prohibited.

4.4.5 Eye-wear

The wearing of eccentric or faddish styles of eyeglasses and/or sunglasses while in uniform is prohibited. Mirrored sunglasses are prohibited.

4.4.6 Civilian Employees

Civilian employees must be neat, clean and well groomed. Their appearance must not reflect unfavorably on the Agency.

4.4.7 Tattoos

No employee will have a visible tattoo which contains profane language or depicts explicit offensive behaviors.

4.4.8 Exceptions

The Sheriff or Chief Deputy may authorize exceptions to the standards in this directive on a case-by-case basis.