

OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

TATTOO POLICY

Tattoos, Body Piercing, Branding and Intentional Scarring

1. Visible tattoos, brandings, intentional scarring, or other body art or modification are prohibited on the face, head, and neck.
 - a. The head is defined as the portion of the body above the first cervical vertebrae (C1).
 - b. The neck is defined as the portion of the body above the collarbone in the front area, above the seventh cervical vertebrae (C7) in the back area.
2. Tattoos, branding, or intentional scarring on the wrists, hands or fingers are prohibited.
3. Tattoos, branding, and intentional scarring or other body art or modification shall not be visible while Old Bridge Police department employees are in uniform or on-duty.
4. Tattoos, branding, and intentional scarring on the chest or back must be below the collarbone and seventh cervical vertebrae (C7). Tattoos, branding, and intentional scarring on the chest or back must be covered by wearing a properly fitting crew-neck t-shirt with no portion of the tattoo, branding or intentional scarring showing.
5. Visible tattoos, brandings, and intentional scarring are prohibited below the elbows, unless such tattoos, brandings, and intentional scarring are on the employee's forearms and existed prior to the effective date of this policy and the involved employee was hired by the Old Bridge Police prior to this date.
6. Employees who are hired by Old Bridge Police Department after August 11, 2017 and are in violation of Paragraph 5 by having tattoos, brandings or intentional scarring on their forearms will be required to cover same by means of an approved compression sleeve or the wearing of the long sleeve uniform shirt at all times. The employee may choose to have the tattoo, branding, or intentional scarring removed at his/her own expense if they wish.
7. Body piercing(s) including earrings and ear gauges (ear lobe rings) are not permitted to be visible to the public at any time. Exceptions are officers working undercover and with the approval of the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
8. While any type of body piercing is discouraged, body piercing anywhere above the shoulders or otherwise visible while the Old Bridge Police Department employee is on duty is prohibited.
9. Tattoos, brandings, or intentional scarring are prohibited from being distasteful, political in nature, obscene, indicative of membership in a hate, racist, subversive organization, criminal gang, or any symbol, including those not readily visible, that can be commonly associated with a hate, racist, subversive organization or criminal gang.
10. Any visible tattoo, branding, or intentional scarring that can be deemed reasonably offensive or morally objectionable, including but not limited to racially oriented, drug related, or sexually explicit words, pictures or symbols are strictly prohibited.