



## YARMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### TATTOOS AND BODY MODIFICATIONS 2018-19

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Issuing Authority:

Chief Kevin P. Lennon

Certification Standards: N/A

Accreditation Standards: N/A

Optional Accreditation Standards: N/A

#### Policy

It is the policy of the Yarmouth Police Department to present a professional image and appearance to our citizens and visitors while in the performance of our official duties. To maintain this professional image and appearance, restrictions will be placed on tattoos, body piercings, and body modifications. This policy shall apply to all sworn members of the Yarmouth Police Department. Any body art, whether approved or not, does not preclude any civil action or complaint by any organization or individual.

#### Procedures

Officers are permitted to have visible tattoos while on duty and/or while wearing the official Yarmouth Police Department Class B or Class C uniform, or other authorized attire. Tattoos, if visible, will be covered when wearing the Class A uniform.

No officer shall have any visible tattoo that is prejudicial to good order, discipline, and morale or is likely to bring discredit upon the department or is likely to associate the member with or be interpreted as the member associated with or advocating the agenda of any criminal or extremist gang or other group.

#### Prohibited Tattoos

Prohibited tattoos include designs that are:

- a. Obscene
- b. Indecent
- c. Violent

- d. Sexually explicit
- e. Sexist
- f. Advocates or symbolizes sexual acts or conduct, or
- g. Advocates or symbolizes prejudice or discrimination based on race, color national origin, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or otherwise offensive.

Any tattoo as described above or that could otherwise be deemed offensive as determined by the Chief of Police, shall be covered while on duty. If the tattoo cannot be covered up, then it shall be removed at the officer's expense. Only approved tattoo covers are allowed. The tattoo covers cannot have any patterns, designs, logos, or wording. Tattoo covers will be black or neutral skin tones. Ex. Tat Jacket Tattoo Cover-up

#### Head and Neck Tattoos

- a. Tattoos on the head or neck, including in or around the mouth area, are prohibited.
- b. The head is defined as the portion of the body above the first cervical vertebrae.
- c. The neck is defined as the portion of the body above the collarbone in the front area, above the seventh cervical vertebrae in the back area.

#### Hand, Finger, and Wrist Tattoos

Tattoos on the hands or fingers are allowable with prior approval from the Chief of Police. An exception is for a single band tattoo no more than 3/8 of an inch in width on one finger of one hand. The hand is described as anywhere below the wrist bone.

#### Body Piercing

The wearing of any facial jewelry to include, but not limited to tongue piercings, lip piercings, nose piercings, brow piercings by any sworn member of the Department while on-duty is prohibited. Exemptions are:

Uniformed female employees may only wear stud earrings while on duty or in uniform.

Male employees shall not wear earrings unless authorized by the Chief of Police

Body  
modifications

No Member shall have any visible, non-medical body mutilation, piercing, branding or intentional scarring. Exceptions for tattoos or ear piercing as defined above. Examples of prohibited intentional mutilation include:

- a. Split or forked tongues.
- b. Foreign objects inserted under the skin to create a design or pattern.
- c. Enlarged or stretched out holes in the ears other than normal piercing.

Dental work

The use of gold, platinum or other dental veneers or caps for the purpose of ornamentation while on-duty is prohibited. Teeth, whether natural, capped, or veneer shall not be ornamented with designs, jewels, initials, etc. Modifications to dental work will be allowed if prescribed by a licensed dentist as necessary work.