



## Tattoo, Body Modification, Branding and Body Piercing Policy

The Maine State Police DOES authorize employees to have visible tattoos while in uniform but prohibits and outlines visible tattoos in the following areas listed below. In order to preserve a professional appearance and promote confidence in us from the public which we serve, the Maine State Police has adopted an official tattoo, body modification, branding and body piercing policy.

The following is applicable to all Maine State Police applicants:

- The content of tattoos located anywhere on the body that are prejudicial to good order and discipline or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the Maine State Police, are prohibited. Examples include, but are not limited to, tattoos that are drug-related, gang-related, extremist, obscene or indecent, sexist, or racist.
- Tattoos are prohibited on the head, face, or neck, to include inside the mouth. Tattoos on the hand, fingers, or within two inches of the wrist bone are prohibited, except a single band tattoo on one hand that is no more than 3/8 of an inch in width on one finger. Any tattoo on the back or chest must be below the collarbone and seventh cervical vertebrae (C7) and must be able to be covered by wearing a properly fitting crew neck t-shirt with no portion of the tattoo visible.
- The uniform includes a short sleeve shirt open at the front of the neck.
- Must comply with Maine State Police policy which requires all members to present a neat and professional appearance at all times.
- Tattoos described as band, quarter-sleeve, half-sleeve tattoo placements are authorized. Half-sleeve and band tattoos must be located at least two inches above the elbow.
- Elbow and Full-sleeve Tattoos are not authorized to be visible in the summer uniform or civilian attire. Tattoos in these areas will be covered by wearing a long sleeve uniform or the department issued "sleeve(s)" while wearing the summer uniform. Full sleeve tattoos must be located at least two inches above the wrist bone, in order to not extend beyond the sleeve length.
- Tattoos on the lower arm or forearm are authorized to be visible and must be located at least two inches above the wrist and one inch below the elbow. Tattoos cannot be any larger than the member's hand with fingers and thumb extended and joined. A band tattoo, not exceeding 3 inches, on the forearm is acceptable. Tattoos of larger size or number on the lower arm are not authorized to be displayed in uniform or civilian attire and must be covered by the department issued "sleeve(s)".

Candidates will be screened during processing at which time a determination will be made as to whether an applicant is in violation of the policy. If a candidate is found to be in violation, and a sleeve will not bring them into compliance, then that person will have the option of having the tattoo or the visible portion thereof, removed at their own expense. If a candidate expresses a

willingness to have this done, their application will be placed on hold until the process is completed.

While on duty, Members can wear a watch and a wedding band.

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Maine State Police Training Unit at 207-877-8004 or 207-877-8025.