

2. Body Art (Tattoos)

Policy Note: The stipulations in this section apply to all personnel effective July 31, 2018 forward. Tattoos obtained by members prior to that date are exempt.

a. No member shall have any body art that is excessive; obscene; indecent; violent; sexually explicit; sexist; advocates or symbolizes sexual acts or conduct; advocates or symbolizes prejudice or discrimination based on race, color national origin, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or age; or otherwise offensive. The Chief of Police (or designee) will determine the appropriateness of the tattoo.

b. No member shall have any body art on any area of the body that is prejudicial to good order, discipline and morale; or is likely to bring discredit upon the St. Augustine Police 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.

c. Head or Neck Tattoos

- 1) Tattoos on the head or neck, including in or around the mouth area, are prohibited.
- 2) The head is defined as the portion of the body above the first cervical vertebrae (C1).
- 3) 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.

d. Band Tattoos

- 1) This policy direction is for tattoos visible outside the summer uniform, except as otherwise prohibited or limited above.
- 2) Members may have band tattoos that do not exceed three inches or the width of the individual member's four fingers extended and joined, whichever is greater. Note: The measurement will be from the second knuckle on the index finger to the first knuckle of the pinky finger.
- 3) If a band tattoo is partially covered by the summer uniform and partially visible in the summer uniform, the covered part may be of any size and the visible part must not exceed the width as indicated above.
- 4) A band tattoo constitutes a single allowable tattoo.

e. Upper Arm Tattoos

- 1) An upper arm tattoo that starts from the chest or shoulder and extends below the sleeve is authorized. The visible portion may extend down the arm on all sides no further than a line around the circumference of the upper arm measured two inches above the elbow.
- 2) The visible portion must not exceed the bounds of the individual Member's hand with their fingers extended and joined with the thumb flush against the side of the hand. The measurement will be from the base of the palm to the tip of the fingers and from the outside of the thumb to the outside of the palm.

f. Elbow Tattoos Prohibited

1) There must be an area from at least two inches above to at least one inch below the elbow, measured from the center of the elbow, which is free of tattoos and separates any tattoos on the lower arm.

g. Lower Arm Tattoos

1) Lower arm tattoos may extend down no further than a line around the circumference of the wrist measured at two inches above the wrist bone and may extend up no further than a line around the circumference of the lower arm measured at one inch below the elbow.

2) Tattoos on a lower arm are limited to one of the following:

i. A single tattoo which can be covered by the individual member's hand with their fingers extended and joined with the thumb flush against the side of the hand. The measurement will be from the base of the palm to the tip of the fingers and from the outside of the thumb to the outside of the palm.

ii. A single collection of tattoos which can be covered by the individual member's hand with their fingers extended and joined with the thumb flush against the side of the hand. The measurement will be from the base of the palm to the tip of the fingers and from the outside of the thumb to the outside of the palm.

h. Hand, Finger, and Wrist Tattoos

1) Tattoos on the hands, fingers, or within two inches of the wrist bone are prohibited, with the exception of a single band tattoo of no more than 3/8 of an inch in width on one finger of one hand.

i. Upper Leg Tattoos

1) An upper leg tattoo that starts from the thigh or upper body and extends below the bottom of properly fitting summer uniform shorts is authorized. The visible portion may extend down the leg on all sides no further than a line around the circumference of the upper leg measured at two inches above the center of the knee (i.e., the patella), when the leg is straight. The visible portion must not exceed the bounds of the individual member's hand with their fingers extended and joined with the thumb flush against the side of the hand. The measurement will be from the base of the palm to the tip of the fingers and from the outside of the thumb to the outside of the palm.

j. Lower Leg Tattoos

1) Lower leg tattoos may extend up the leg no further than a line around the circumference of the lower leg measured at two inches below the center of the knee (i.e., the patella), when the leg is straight.

2) Tattoos on a lower leg are limited to one of the following:

i. A single tattoo which can be covered by the individual member's hand with their fingers extended and joined with the thumb flush against the side of the hand. The

measurement will be from the base of the palm to the tip of the fingers and from the outside of the thumb to the outside of the palm.

ii. A single collection of tattoos which can be covered by the individual member's hand with their fingers extended and joined with the thumb flush against the side of the hand. The measurement will be from the base of the palm to the tip of the fingers and from the outside of the thumb to the outside of the palm.