

## 2. Tattoos/Brands

- a) Tattoos to the head, neck and facial area are prohibited. Hand tattoos are also prohibited, however, there may be limited exceptions with approval from the Chief of Police in very limited circumstances.
- b) Department members are permitted to have tattoos elsewhere, visible to the public, provided that the tattoo is not objectionable or demeaning to the community or the Department image and values. The nature, number, size and location of the tattoos are all factors in determining whether such tattoos are objectionable or demeaning. The Chief of Police shall have the sole authority and discretion to determine whether or not a tattoo, decal, body brand or body modification/piercing is objectionable or demeaning to the community or the image and values of the Department. Tattoos and body brandings cannot contain offensive, vulgar, inappropriate, unprofessional, gang or drug related, racist, sexually suggestive or explicit material, or any reference to the Oswego Police Department. Tattoos that undermine community or department values are also prohibited. Examples include but are not limited to tattoos that contain nudity, profanity, or which may be perceived as gang related, criminal, obscene, sexual, racial, or as detracting from the professional image of a law enforcement employee.
- c) All tattoos shall be covered for court appearances. This means that officers who are attending court shall be required to wear either the uniform or professional attire that they are normally required to wear on duty to be in compliance with the terms of this policy.
- d) Any member with a tattoo deemed non-conforming shall be required to wear a long sleeved uniform shirt or an approved fabric sleeve with summer uniforms, or will be required to cover the tattoo(s) by a method approved by the Chief of Police.