



Department of State Police

General Order

Effective Date: May 25, 2023	Number: GEN-01
Subject: Personal Appearance	

Policy

As the principal law enforcement agency within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, members shall present an image of the highest standard, order, and professionalism to the public.

Members shall correct any deficiencies in their personal appearance, uniform, or equipment as soon as practicable, unless otherwise specified in this Order.

Jewelry

No jewelry, pins, necklaces, or bracelets of any kind shall be worn with the uniform. Exceptions, if conservative, are:

- Wristwatch;
- Medic Alert bracelet;
- Rings; and
- Necklaces worn discreetly beneath the shirt.

Note: Earrings shall not be worn while in uniform; however, conservative earrings may be worn by members in plainclothes assignments.

Members shall not display implants or facial/body piercing, while on duty or representing the Department. Note: In some instances, implants may be acceptable if a licensed medical practitioner requires the medical procedure and the procedure is performed under the medical practitioner's supervision.

Facial/body piercings include, but are not limited to:

- Piercing of the face, tongue, nasal septum, lips or lip plate; or
- The deliberate expansion of a healed fistula (hole in the skin) for wearing body-piercing jewelry; or
- The transdermal or microdermal implants.

Exception:

Members who are on undercover assignment may display facial or body piercings, when authorized by their Division Commander.

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Hygiene and Oral Hygiene

Members' personal care shall conform to the highest personal hygiene standards.

Members, when in any uniform or representing the Department, shall ensure:

- Teeth will be clean and free of foreign debris;
- There is an appearance of a full set of teeth; and
- Missing or broken teeth and/or loose orthodontics shall be replaced or repaired as soon as possible.

Members shall not display dental/oral modifications to their teeth or mouth area while on duty or representing the Department. Note: In some instances, dental/oral modifications or procedures may be acceptable if a licensed dental or medical practitioner requires the medical procedure and the procedure is performed under their supervision.

Dental/oral modifications include, but are not limited to:

- Tongue splitting or bifurcation;
- Abnormal filing of the teeth; and
- Dental veneers or laminates ornamented with designs, jewels, initials, or any other decoration.

Cosmetics

Cosmetics, if worn, shall be:

- Subdued and blended to match the natural skin color; and
- Conservative.

No false eyelashes or unnaturally colored contact lenses shall be worn.

No fingernail polish of any color shall be used when in uniform.

Tattoos and Body Modifications

Members shall comply with General Order GEN-01A Tattoos and Body Modifications.

Hair

Hair shall:

- Be clean, neat, and well groomed;
- Not touch the top of the uniform shirt collar, at the back, when standing with the head in a normal posture;
- Not interfere with the wearing of any issued headgear; or
- Not be dyed or tinted in an exaggerated or unnatural color.

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Hair,
continued

Note: Wigs or hairpieces may be worn if they conform to the above standards.

Males in Uniform:

Hair shall be:

- Either tapered or blocked at the back of the neck; and
- Tapered or blocked at the sides but may not touch the ears.

Sideburns shall be:

- Neatly trimmed and rectangular;
- Trimmed horizontally, at a right angle;
- Of even width; and
- No longer than the midpoint of the tragus of the ear.

Faces shall be clean shaven except:

- Members assigned undercover, and with the approval of the Unit/Section Commander; or
- Members with a temporary medical condition, verified by the State Police Surgeon.

Note: Members with mustaches, beards, or goatees shall not appear in uniform.

Females in Uniform:

- Hair may extend over, but not below, the bottom of the ear, nor more than two inches forward of the ear;
- Conservative ponytails, braids, hair buns, etc., may be used if secured to the head; and
- Inconspicuous hair aids that blend in with the hair may be used.

References

GEN-01A Tattoos and Body Modifications;
 Rules & Regulations, Article 10;
 MGL c. 22C, § 19;
 MPAC: 22.2.5, 26.1.1;
 Inturri v. City of Hartford, 2006 WL 231671 (2nd Cir. 2006).

Promulgated By: **John E. Mawn Jr., Colonel/Superintendent**