

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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DONNY YOUNGBLOOD
Sheriff - Coroner - Public Administrator



Issue: 25-73

TRAINING BULLETIN

DATE: 12/17/2025

New Policy and Procedure K-0304 Facial Coverings

Effective January 1, 2026, Senate Bill 627 amended Penal Code 185.5 and established Government Code 7289, regarding facial coverings in law enforcement.

Government Code 7289 requires by July 1, 2026, law enforcement agencies operating in California to maintain and publicly post a written policy limiting the use of facial coverings. KCSOPPM K-0304 was created to define "Facial Coverings" and the exemptions related to the masks and coverings.

Key Provision:

Pursuant to Penal Code 185.5(a), "a law enforcement officer shall not wear a facial covering that conceals or obscures their facial identity in the performance of their duties, except as expressly authorized in this section." "A willful and knowing violation of this section is punishable as an infraction or a misdemeanor" pursuant to Subsection "d", unless "the agency maintains and publicly posts, no later than July 1, 2026, a written policy pursuant to Section 7289 of the Government Code" pursuant to Subsection "f".

Documentation:

Any use of an opaque facial covering shall be approved by a supervisor prior to use only when no other reasonable alternatives exist and shall be documented via the "Facial Covering Use Report" found on SheriffNet. If more than one sworn personnel utilize facial covering during an incident, the use by each employee shall be documented in the single submitted report.

“Facial Covering Use Report” can be found in the link and/or QR code below:

[Application/Link List](#)



KCSOPPM K-0304 can be found in the link below:

[K 0304 - Facial Coverings.doc](#)

By acknowledging this training bulletin, you are indicating you have read this training bulletin and newly established policy KCSOPPM K-0304. All sworn personnel are required to review and acknowledge this training bulletin no later than **Wednesday, December 31, 2025.**