



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: Visible Identifiers			NO: K-0303
REFERENCE: Government Code 7289, Penal Code 185.5, KCSOPPM J-2300, KCSOPPM B-0200			
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2026	REVIEWED: November 24, 2025	REVISED: November 24, 2025	UPDATED: December 12, 2025

POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the Sheriff's Office commitment to transparency, accountability, and public trust; to establish clear limits restricting situations in which sworn personnel do not visibly display identification to specific, clearly defined, and limited circumstances; and to ensure compliance with Government Code 7288.

In order to further the Sheriff's Office's mission and maintain the public's trust, all sworn personnel shall visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, or both name and badge number, when performing enforcement duties.

EXEMPTIONS

Swon personnel are exempt from displaying identifiers under the following circumstances:

- Officers engaged in active undercover operations or investigative activities.
- Officers wearing personal protective equipment that prevents display.
- Exigent circumstances, involving an imminent danger to persons or property, or the escape of a perpetrator, or the destruction of evidence, including if the officer is responding to those circumstances while off-duty.¹
- When there is a specific, articulable, and particularized reason to believe identification would pose a significant danger to the physical safety of the peace officer.

DEFINITIONS

- **"Enforcement duties"** means active and planned operations involving the arrest or detention of an individual, or deployment for crowd control purposes.

¹ See KCSOPPM B-200, B-225, and B-250 for other provisions related to off-duty conduct.

- **“Visibly display identification”** means to wear externally on the uniform in a size and location such as to be reasonably visible to member of the public with whom the officer interacts.

PENAL CODE 13654

Pursuant to PC 13654(a), “A law enforcement officer operating in California that is not uniformed, and therefore is not required to clearly display identification pursuant to Section 830.10, shall visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number or both name and badge number when performing their enforcement duties.” “A willful and knowing violation of this section is punishable as a misdemeanor” pursuant to Subsection “c”, unless the “agency maintains and publicly posts a written policy pursuant to Section 7288 of the Government Code” pursuant to Subsection “e”.

DIRECTIVE A

Failure to comply with the duties as listed in this section may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Personnel are also reminded of the requirement to:

- Furnish their name and badge number upon the request of any citizen (unless to do so during an undercover operation would endanger the officer or compromise an investigation) pursuant to KCSOPPM B-0200
- Introduce themselves by providing their name, rank, and agency affiliation during any pedestrian contact or vehicle stop (unless it is reasonably believed that withholding the reason for the stop is necessary to protect life or property from imminent threat, including, but not limited to, cases of terrorism or kidnapping [Vehicle Code 2806.5(b)]) pursuant to KCSO PPM J-2300.

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