

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures

TITLE: INCARCERATED PEOPLE WITH BODY ADORNMENTS OR JEWELRY C-1700

EFFECTIVE:	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
March 16, 2004	04-01-2026		07-11-2024

APPROVED BY: Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy Cindy Cisneros

REFERENCE:

POLICY

Body adornments and jewelry represent potential security hazards in Kern County jails both as a means to defeat security devices and as parts of makeshift weapons. Because of these hazards, incarcerated persons are prohibited from wearing or possessing body adornments or jewelry except as provided for in Procedure A.

If an incarcerated person requests staff to assist in removing the adornment, staff may do so as long as due caution is exercised to prevent injuring the incarcerated person. If a spreader or other implement is used, it will be sanitized with CaviCide solution prior to use.

DIRECTIVE #1

Force will not be used to remove a body adornment from an uncooperative incarcerated person.

DIRECTIVE #2

If a body adornment is located in a place that would require the incarcerated person to expose their buttocks, genitalia, or a female's breast, in order to remove the adornment, the incarcerated person will be given the opportunity to remove the adornment in a place that provides for the privacy of the incarcerated person.

DEFINITION(S):

Body Adornment: For the purposes of this policy, a body adornment is any decorative item worn on or attached to the body. Examples include, but are not limited to: rings, necklaces, earrings, body piercings, and hair extensions.

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Procedure A: Confiscation of Incarcerated Person Body Adornments

Whenever a staff member becomes aware that an incarcerated person is wearing or possesses a body adornment, staff will:

- Instruct the incarcerated person to remove the item.
- Inventory the item and place it in the incarcerated person's personal property.
- If the incarcerated person is unable or unwilling to remove the item, staff will notify the shift supervisor.

The Shift Supervisor Will:

- Evaluate the security risk posed by the adornment or jewelry and determine if the hazard warrants administratively separating the incarcerated person.
- Ensure that a JMS Incident is completed describing the action taken regarding the body adornment.