

## Visible Identification and Facial Covering Restrictions

<b>Effective Date:</b>	02/12/2026
<b>Revised Date:</b>	02/12/2026
<b>Issuing Authority:</b> Chief Probation Officer	

### 433.1 PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines regarding the visible display of identification by officers performing enforcement duties (Government Code § 7288) and the restriction of facial coverings by sworn personnel during duty-related activities (Government Code § 7289).

This procedure promotes transparency, accountability, and public trust by ensuring that officers are readily identifiable to the public and do not obscure their identity except in narrowly defined and legally permissible circumstances.

### 433.2 DEFINITIONS:

Enforcement Duties: Active or planned operations involving the arrest or detention of an individual, or deployment for crowd control purposes.

Facial Covering: Any opaque mask, garment, helmet, headgear, or item that conceals or obscures an individual's facial identity (e.g., balaclava, tactical mask, gaiter, ski mask). Facial covering does not include:

1. Translucent face shields or clear masks that do not conceal identity.
2. N95 masks or surgical masks used to prevent disease transmission.
3. Respiratory or protective devices required to mitigate exposure to hazardous conditions (e.g., air-purifying respirators, SCBA).
4. Underwater breathing devices.
5. Eye protection designed to shield against retinal weapons (e.g., lasers).

Visibly Display Identification: To wear externally on the uniform in a size and location such as to be reasonably visible to a member of the public whom the officer interacts.

### 433.3 RESPONSIBILITIES:

- I. All Officers:
  - A. Visibly display department identification during enforcement duties unless an authorized exception applies.

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- B. Refrain from wearing facial coverings unless permitted under this procedure.
- C. Comply with supervisor directives regarding identification display and facial covering use.
- D. Report any violations or concerns to a supervisor immediately.
- E. When performing enforcement duties, officers must visibly display identification, including:
  - 1. The name of the San Bernardino County Probation Department, and
  - 2. The officer's name or badge number, or
  - 3. The officer's name and badge number when not uniformed.
- F. Exceptions to Visible Identification:
  - 1. Officers are not required to display visible identification when:
    - (a) Active undercover operations or investigative activities are underway.
    - (b) Personal protective equipment prevents visible display.
    - (c) Exigent circumstances exist involving:
      - i. Imminent danger to persons or property,
      - ii. Escape of a perpetrator,
      - iii. Destruction of evidence,
      - iv. Emergency off-duty response.
  - 2. A specific, articulable, and particularized reason exists indicating that visible identification would pose a significant danger to the officer's physical safety.
- G. Facial Covering Restrictions:
  - 1. Officers shall not wear facial coverings while performing duties except under the following conditions:
    - (a) Active undercover operations or assignments authorized by a supervisor or court order.
    - (b) Tactical operations requiring protective gear for officer safety.
    - (c) Situations where occupational health and safety laws authorize or require protective devices (e.g., N95 masks, SCBA, respiratory protection, hazard mitigation).
    - (d) Protection of identity during prosecution proceedings.
    - (e) Situations authorized under reasonable accommodation laws (e.g., ADA requirements).

## II. Supervisors:

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- A. Ensure compliance with visible identification requirements.
  - B. Authorize and document any allowable use of facial coverings.
  - C. Prevent officers from violating state law or department policy.
  - D. Submit documentation when approving exceptions for safety, operational needs, or legally authorized accommodations.
  - E. Facial Covering Documentation:
    - 1. Facial coverings may only be used when no reasonable alternative exists.
    - 2. A supervisor must approve and document the necessity in the appropriate report.
  - F. Supervisors must not knowingly allow officers to violate state law or department policy relating to facial covering restrictions.
- III. Chief Probation Officer or Designee:
- A. Ensure this procedure is publicly posted on the department website.
  - B. Review and respond to written challenges within 90 days, as required by law.