



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDERS



430.01

FACIAL COVERINGS

08-26-2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures to ensure all sworn personnel are readily identifiable while performing their duties. This includes the visible display of identification that includes a badge, name, and agency in accordance with General Order 380.02 (Identification Cards). The Sacramento Police Department (SPD) is committed to transparency, accountability, and public trust. In compliance with Government Code § 7289(b)(1), the SPD restricts the use of facial coverings to specific, clearly defined, and limited circumstances. Generalized or undifferentiated fear and apprehension about officer safety is not sufficient to justify the use of facial coverings.

POLICY

The Sacramento Police Department shall restrict the use of facial coverings to specific, clearly defined, and limited circumstances during public-facing assignments or enforcement actions.

PROCEDURE

A. DEFINITIONS

1. **FACIAL COVERING** – Any opaque mask, garment, helmet, headgear, or other item that conceals or obscures the facial identity of an individual, including but not limited to a balaclava, tactical mask, gaiter, ski mask, and any similar type of facial covering or face-shielding item.
 - a. In accordance with Penal Code § 185.5(b), facial covering does not include:
 - (1) A translucent face shield or clear mask that does not conceal the wearer's facial identity and is used in compliance with this policy.
 - (2) A N95 medical mask or surgical mask to protect against transmission of disease or infection or any other mask, helmet, or device, including but not limited to air-purifying respirators, full or half masks, or self-contained breathing apparatus necessary to protect against exposure to any toxin, gas, smoke, inclement weather, or any other hazardous or harmful environmental condition.
 - (3) A motorcycle or bicycle helmet when worn by an officer utilizing a motorcycle, bicycle, or other vehicle that requires a helmet for safe operations while in the performance of their duties.
 - (4) Eyewear necessary to protect from the use of retinal weapons, including but not limited to lasers.

B. Facial coverings shall not be worn by officers when performing their duties except under the following conditions:

1. Active undercover operations or assignments authorized by supervising personnel or court order.
2. Tactical operations where protective gear is required for physical safety.
 - a. Gas mask during chemical weapons deployment.
3. Applicable law governing occupational health and safety.
4. Protection of identity during prosecution.
5. Applicable law governing reasonable accommodations.
6. During inclement weather, motor officers and officers riding bicycles may wear facial coverings but shall be removed during contact with the public.

C. In accordance with CA Penal Code § 185.5 (c)(2), officers assigned to Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) are exempted from this policy while actively performing their SWAT responsibilities.