

Louisville Metro Police Department

Standard Operating Procedures	SOP Number: 4.12
	Effective Date: 07/12/03 Prv. Rev. Date: 09/02/21 Revised Date: 11/11/23
	Accreditation Standards: KACP: 12.1
Chapter: Uniforms and Equipment	
Subject: Dress and Equipment Requirements for Plainclothes Sworn Personnel	

4.12 DRESS AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAINCLOTHES SWORN PERSONNEL (KACP 12.1)

4.12.1 POLICY

All plainclothes officers will abide by this policy with the exception of units specified by the Chief of Police, or their designee. Officers and detectives who work, or have the potential to work, in an undercover capacity or in certain specialty units may dress according to standards established by their commanding officer (refer to SOP 4.28).

An employee will be supported in complying with SOP 4.12 consistent with the employee's gender identity or expression and will be required to comply with the same standards of dress and appearance that apply to other LMPD sworn members.

4.12.2 DRESS

Officers will be neat, clean, and well-groomed. Clothing will consist of a business-like appearance that promotes a professional image of the department.

Male plainclothes officers will wear a dress shirt, or other collared shirt, and dress pants. Sweaters, sports jackets, or suits are optional. Dress shirts with ties may be required by division command. Earrings are prohibited, except as provided in SOP 4.2.7. Tight, revealing, or otherwise inappropriate work attire is not allowed.

Female plainclothes officers will wear dress pants, dress shirts, blouses, sweaters, skirts, or dresses. Tight, revealing, or otherwise inappropriate work attire is not allowed.

Solid-colored polo shirts, with the official Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) patch embroidered on the left breast area, may be worn at the discretion of the division/section/unit commander. The officer's first initial and last name will be embroidered on the right breast area. Division/section/unit commanders are responsible for approving the shirt colors. The departmental patch may only be worn on the approved polo shirts and corresponding attire will maintain business casual standards.

4.12.3 HAIR

Male officers' hair will not extend completely over the ears or below the top of the shirt collar. Extreme hair styles (i.e., Mohawks, shaved-in lines other than a part, shaved-in images, etc.) or hair coloring in hues that are not found in the natural spectrum of human hair (i.e., pink, blue, purple, green, florescent colors, etc.) is prohibited.

Beards, mustaches, sideburns, and goatees are permitted in accordance with the policy contained in SOP 4.2 (Uniform Guidelines).

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4.12.3 HAIR (CONTINUED)

Female officers' hair must be neat in appearance. Extreme hairstyles (i.e., Mohawks, shaved-in lines other than a part, shaved-in images, etc.) or hair coloring in hues that are not found in the natural spectrum of human hair (i.e., pink, blue, purple, green, florescent colors, etc.) is prohibited.

If secondary employment dictates that a uniform is to be worn, an officer whose normal duty assignment is non-uniform will conform to the more stringent requirement in SOP 4.2 (Uniform Guidelines).

4.12.4 EQUIPMENT

Plainclothes officers will carry the following equipment:

- Firearm with at least one (1) fully-loaded spare magazine
- ASP, baton, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, or Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) (carrying a CEW while in plainclothes is optional)
- Appropriate badge and identification (ID) card
- Departmentally-approved handcuffs. Handcuffs will be either black in color or silver, chrome, or other natural colors of metal. Any other colors, excluding handcuffs that have been altered in color by the department, will not be used while on-duty or off-duty.

Plainclothes officers will have departmentally-issued green wristbands readily available at the scene of an incident for identification purposes to other responding officers or civilians (refer to SOP 4.28).

Plainclothes officers are prohibited from carrying equipment that has not been authorized by competent authority.

4.12.5 FIREARMS

Officers who are wearing plainclothes attire must have their badge displayed next to their duty holster, or otherwise visible, at all times.

Members should refer to SOP 8.2.8 and SOP 8.2.9 for information on court attire and securing firearms, and/or concealment of firearms, when wearing business attire to court, respectively.

4.12.6 BADGE AND IDENTIFICATION

Patrol officers who are permanently assigned to detective positions will be assigned a detective badge and ID card. Unless approved by the Chief of Police, or their designee, only the following sworn personnel will be assigned a detective badge and ID card:

- Major Crimes Division detectives
- Criminal Interdiction Division (CID) detectives

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4.12.6 BADGE AND IDENTIFICATION (CONTINUED)

- Patrol Bureau detectives

If a detective is temporarily assigned to a detail or performs secondary employment requiring a uniform, they will wear the detective badge, in accordance with SOP 4.10. If a detective is permanently transferred or reassigned to a uniform position, or if an officer is permanently transferred or reassigned to a detective position, they will contact the Assistant Chief of Police/Administrative Bureau, or their designee, within seven (7) days to obtain an appropriate replacement badge. Officers and detectives are prohibited from exchanging badges with each other.

Officers and detectives who are permanently transferred or reassigned to, or from, a uniform or detective position will also go to the LMPD Photo Lab within seven (7) days and obtain an appropriate ID card. Uniformed officers who are temporarily assigned to a state, federal, or departmental task force will not be issued a detective badge or ID card.

4.12.7 TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT

Officers who are temporarily assigned to a unit will dress appropriately for the assignment, as directed by the unit supervisor and/or in accordance with SOP 4.2 (Uniform Guidelines).

4.12.8 COURT ATTIRE

Officers will appear in court in uniform or appropriate business attire (refer to SOP 8.2).