



# TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

*1700 North Congress Ave., Suite 445  
Austin, Texas 78701*

## **VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA**

**October 20, 2023, at 9:00 AM**

Barbara Jordan State Office Building  
1601 Congress Avenue  
Room 2.034  
Austin, Texas 78701

**This meeting of the Texas Forensic Science Commission (“Commission”) will be conducted as a videoconference meeting pursuant to Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code section 551.127. Members of the Commission and staff may appear remotely. The Commission’s officer presiding over the meeting will be present at the physical location set forth in this agenda. Members of the public may attend the meeting in person at the physical location listed above, where they may participate and make public comment. The Commission will endeavor to livestream the meeting from its website at [www.fsc.texas.gov](http://www.fsc.texas.gov), but the livestream will not include an option for the public to make comments remotely.**

**During this meeting, the Commission may consider and possibly take action on the following items. The Commission may take breaks as necessary. The Commission may meet in closed session on any item listed below, as authorized by the Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.**

1. Call meeting to order. Roll call for members. Excuse any absent board members.
2. Review and adopt minutes from July 21, 2023 Commission quarterly meeting.
3. Office administrative update (FY2024 first quarter budget status report; updates from conferences and trainings attended by staff; update on status of launch of database functions, including crime laboratory accreditation status and search functions as well as Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) Registry implementation). (General Counsel Garcia/Associate General Counsel Tomlin)
4. Discuss and consider complaints and laboratory self-disclosures pending from July 21, 2023 quarterly meeting and new complaints and laboratory self-disclosures received through September 29, 2023, as detailed below.

### Self-disclosures pending from July 21, 2023:

1. No. 23.07; Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)



# TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

*1700 North Congress Ave., Suite 445  
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2. No. 23.18; City of Austin Forensic Science Department (Firearms/Toolmarks)

## Self-disclosures received as of September 29, 2023:

3. No. 23.21; Department of Public Safety – Lubbock (Firearms/Toolmarks)
4. No. 23.42; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
5. No. 23.45; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
6. No. 23.47; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
7. No. 23.54; Harris County Institute of Forensic Science (Forensic Biology/DNA)
8. No. 23.57; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
9. No. 23.59; Intermountain Forensics (Forensic Biology/DNA)
10. No. 23.60; University of North Texas Health Science Center – Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA)
11. No. 23.41; Department of Public Safety – Austin (Seized Drugs)
12. No. 23.46; Department of Public Safety – Tyler (Seized Drugs)
13. No. 23.50; Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory System (Toxicology; Blood Alcohol)
14. No. 23.53; Department of Public Safety – Lubbock (Seized Drugs)
15. No. 23.56; Department of Public Safety – Garland (Toxicology; Blood Alcohol)
16. No. 23.58; Department of Public Safety – Houston (Materials (Trace))

## Complaints received since September 29, 2023

17. No. 23.55; Tillman, Troy (Houston Forensic Science Center; Forensic Biology/DNA)

## Staff Dismissals of Complaints Received since September 29, 2023

1. No. 23.44; Ge, Jinaye (University of North Texas Health Science Center – Center for Human Identification; Human Resources Issue)
2. No. 23.48; Sims, Laura (Harris County Institute of Forensic Science; Autopsy/Pathology)
3. No. 23.49; Bowden, Nichole (Harris County Institute of Forensic Science (Autopsy/Pathology))

5. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including:
  - a. Accreditation activities, communications and reports received since July 21, 2023 quarterly meeting; and



## TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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- b. Summary of reported non-consensus proficiency testing results from accredited crime laboratories. (General Counsel Garcia/Associate General Counsel Tomlin)
6. Discuss updates from licensing advisory committee, including:
  - a. Report on licenses issued and renewed;
  - b. Report from October 19, 2023 Licensing Advisory Committee meeting action items;
  - c. Update on voluntary licensure requirements, including discussion of possible proposed rulemakings on changes and additions to voluntary licenses for latent prints and new voluntary licenses for crime scene investigation and crime scene reconstruction analysts; and
  - d. Update from August 25, 2023 meeting regarding possible Latent Print/Crime Scene Model Training Academy in collaboration with Department of Public Safety and Texas Division of the International Association for Identification and discussion of possible rulemakings related to the training programs as necessary. (General Counsel Garcia/Associate General Counsel Tomlin)
7. Update regarding complaint #21.27 University of Colorado, National Innocence Project on behalf of Nanon Williams (Houston PD/Houston Forensic Science Center) (Firearms/Toolmarks).
8. Review and possible adoption of final investigative report regarding complaint #22.16 Harris County Public Defender's Office on behalf of Webster, Joseph (Ron Smith & Associates; Friction Ridge).
9. Discuss current forensic development training and education projects, including:
  - a. November 2-3, 2023 DNA training for lawyers and judges with the Court of Criminal Appeals, Texas Center for the Judiciary, Texas District and County Attorney's Association, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association;
  - b. Laboratory manager certification (Levels 1 and 2) by National Forensic Leadership Academy;
  - c. Hosting of first meeting of National Association of State Forensic Boards: November 16-17, 2023; and
  - d. December 7-8, 2023 meeting with DNA laboratories to discuss DNA mixture profile interpretation, with focus on analyst testimony.
10. Discuss and propose rule amendments, including changes responsive to the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature's HB 3506 concerning the timeline for removal of elimination samples from laboratory DNA QA databases.



## TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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11. Presentation from Mark Stolorow regarding national and Texas-based implementation efforts and related tools for forensic science service providers seeking to implement OSAC Registry standards.
12. Update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors.
13. Consider proposed agenda items for next quarterly meeting.
14. Schedule and location of future panel and quarterly meetings, including January 26, 2024 and April 2024 quarterly meetings.
15. Hear public comment.
16. Adjourn.

**To increase public access to meetings, the Commission will endeavor to live-stream the quarterly meetings on its website at [www.fsc.texas.gov](http://www.fsc.texas.gov). However, the Commission's decision to live-stream any particular meeting should not be interpreted as a guarantee that all meetings will be live-streamed. Our ability to live-stream depends on budgetary constraints and logistical considerations at any given meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Cristabel Bodden at (512) 936-0770 or [cristabel.bodden@fsc.texas.gov](mailto:cristabel.bodden@fsc.texas.gov).**

**Persons with disabilities who plan to attend a commission meeting and need assistance should contact Cristabel Bodden at the contact information above at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements may be made.**