



TEXAS FORENSIC
SCIENCE COMMISSION

Justice Through Science

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

March 2, 2017

Via e-mail

Ms. Debra L. Stephens
Alamo Forensic Services
7340 Blanco Road, Suite 600
San Antonio, Texas 78216

Re: Texas Forensic Science Commission ("Commission") Complaint #16.65

Dear Ms. Stephens:

At its February 10, 2017 meeting, the Commission unanimously dismissed the complaint reference above, because Commissioners found the supporting material provided by the Austin Police Department's blood alcohol section sufficiently answered any questions Commissioners had about the laboratory's approach to the uncertainty of measurement in blood alcohol cases.

Based on the documentation provided, it appeared that your complaint may have confused the measurement uncertainty of reported test results with the acceptance criteria for quality controls that are included in a run (or batch) of samples.

Given the documents and explanation provided by the Austin Police Department, Commissioners believe the laboratory's blood alcohol section is following currently acceptable standards of practice with respect to measurement uncertainty including those set by accreditation guidelines. The laboratory uses three different instruments to support the evaluation and reports the highest level of uncertainty to the client in an abundance of caution. Many laboratories in the state use similar acceptance criteria to the Austin Police Department blood alcohol section and the Commission finds this approach acceptable.

We thank you for your complaint and encourage you to follow up with any questions you may have.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Leigh M. Savage

Leigh M. Savage
Associate General Counsel