

#1118.15.16 Cockerham (Southeast Texas Forensic Center, Dog-Scent lineup and Autopsy)

Inmate Mario L. Cockerham filed this complaint for a second time, alleging dog scent line-up evidence was used to convict him at trial and a pathologist's conclusions about the death of the infant in his case were incorrect and biased.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Kessler moved to dismiss the complaint because the Commission has previously addressed the complaint and the forensic issues have either been resolved or are beyond the Commission's jurisdiction. Lerma seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

#1119.15.17 Stephens (Austin Police Department, Controlled Substance)

Debra Stephens, a former APD employee, filed this complaint relating to a controlled substance case against defendant Steven Louis Vallejo, alleging APD Laboratory management reported false errors in the analysis of Vallejo's case to destroy her reputation.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Alpert moved to dismiss the complaint because allegations over which the Commission has any authority have already been vetted by ASCLD/LAB and the Commission. Hughes-Stamm seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

#1120.15.18 Spence (McClennan County DA's Office, DNA, Bite marks)

Jason Spence, son of David Spence, filed this complaint alleging the wrongful conviction of David Spence, Anthony Melendez and other defendants involved in the Lake Waco Murders, requesting DNA testing for Anthony Melendez and re-evaluation of the bite mark evidence used at his father's trial.

Several members of the public, including Jan Thompson, niece of one of the victims in the Lake Waco murder, Bernadette Feazell, paralegal and friend of Anthony Melendez, and Scott Ogle, attorney for Jason Spence, offered comments and expressed frustration with the delay in receiving results from further DNA testing in the Melendez case.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Kessler moved to dismiss the complaint because the Commission has no statutory authority to order DNA testing in any particular criminal case or to determine the status of testing at a particular time, and that the bite mark testimony case be included as part of the Bite Mark Panel review process. Alpert seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

#1121.15.19 Echols (DPS—Waco, Sexual Assault Kit/DNA)

Inmate Randy Virgil Echols filed this complaint alleging general misconduct by the Comanche County Sheriff's Office, the DPS (Waco) crime lab, and Hendricks Medical Center SANE Judith Lafrance, that led to his 2012 conviction for indecency with a child by contact.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Kessler moved to refer the complaint to the DNA Mixture Triage Team because the allegations are related to DNA mixture interpretation. Alpert seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*