



TEXAS FORENSIC
SCIENCE COMMISSION

Justice Through Science

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

May 20, 2019

Via First Class Mail

Mr. Irwin Pentland
TDCJ# 02172524
Hughes Unit
3201 FM 929
Gatesville, TX 76597

Re: Texas Forensic Science Commission Complaint No. 19.06, Pentland, Irwin (DPS Austin; Forensic Biology/DNA)

Dear Mr. Pentland,

At its May 3, 2019 meeting, commissioners voted to dismiss the referenced complaint for failure to state a specific or credible allegation of negligence or misconduct in connection with a forensic analysis. The complaint makes general references to the shuttering of the DNA Section of the Austin Police Department's ("APD") crime lab and possible contamination of evidence, but makes no specific allegations regarding problems in forensic analysis processes or conclusions in your case.

With regard to testing and/or re-testing of evidence originally submitted to APD and subsequently sent to DPS Austin, laboratories test only what their client (APD in this case) asks to be tested. In this instance, DPS Austin and APD had an agreement that DPS would re-test certain DNA evidence originally tested by APD. There is no evidence to support the allegation that DPS attempted to "uncontaminate tainted evidence."

Finally, this commission has no jurisdiction over law enforcement and its handling of evidence. Your legal representative is the appropriate person to request information about the status or location of evidence in your case. If you are represented and the attorney identifies any particular issues of concern with regard to a specific analysis in your case he/she may contact us at his/ her convenience.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Adams".

Kathryn Adams
Commission Coordinator

/mka