



TEXAS FORENSIC  
SCIENCE COMMISSION

*Justice Through Science*

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

June 17, 2020

***Via E-mail to [michal.pierce@ifs.hctx.net](mailto:michal.pierce@ifs.hctx.net)***

Ms. Michal Pierce, Quality Director  
Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences  
1861 Old Spanish Trail  
Houston, TX 77054

Re: Texas Forensic Science Commission (“Commission”) Self-Disclosure No. 20.03  
HCIFS (Toxicology)

Dear Ms. Pierce,

At its June 12, 2020 quarterly meeting, the Commission voted to take no further action on the self-disclosure referenced above given the root cause and corrective actions by your laboratory, including notification to the district attorney’s office, changes to the laboratory’s standard operating procedures to address actions to be taken in the event of a refrigerator malfunction at an off-site facility, the addition of a toxicology designee/contact for refrigerator alarms, and a long-term plan to bring storage refrigerators on-site.

If the laboratory identifies any material changes to the information provided in connection with this disclosure, please notify the Commission as soon as possible. Thank you and please feel free to contact commission staff with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

*Leigh M. Savage*

Leigh M. Savage  
Associate General Counsel