



TEXAS FORENSIC
SCIENCE COMMISSION

Justice Through Science

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

November 20, 2020

Via email to angelamooreattorney@gmail.com

Ms. Angela Moore
316 Martinez Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Re: TFSC Complaint No. 20.08 – Angela Moore on behalf of Laura Day (Andrea Zafares; Crime Scene Reconstruction/Ocean Drowning)

Dear Ms. Moore:

At its October 23, 2020 quarterly meeting, the Forensic Science Commission (“Commission”) voted to dismiss the referenced complaint. The basis for this decision is that for cases concerning entities or forensic disciplines not subject to accreditation, the Commission’s jurisdiction is extremely limited. *See*, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 38.01 §4(b-1) (2019). The subject of this complaint falls into that category.

Relevant factors considered by the Commission in decisions involving acceptance of a complaint concerning an unaccredited discipline include whether there is consensus that the forensic community in Texas would benefit from best practices and other recommendations identified during a case review, and whether the Commission has the available resources necessary to adequately address the area of analysis. The Commission is currently addressing the need to improve crime scene collection and analysis and has established a multidisciplinary working group to make recommendations to achieve these ends. Commissioners voted to provide a copy of your complaint to the working group so members may ascertain whether alleged drowning death scene reconstruction is an area for which specific guidance is merited.

The Commission’s dismissal of this complaint should not be construed as a comment on the reliability or validity of the analysis provided by Ms. Zafares, or her related court testimony in the criminal case in question. Please feel free to contact commission staff with any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Kathryn Adams
Commission Coordinator

