



TEXAS FORENSIC  
SCIENCE COMMISSION

*Justice Through Science*

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

January 27, 2022

**Via Email to [waynelikes@yahoo.com](mailto:waynelikes@yahoo.com)**

Mr. Howard Farmer  
1001 N. Mound St.  
Nacogdoches, TX 75961

Re: Texas Forensic Science Commission (“TFSC”) Complaint No. 21.62: Farmer, Howard  
(SWIFS; GSR)

Dear Mr. Farmer,

At its January 21, 2022 quarterly meeting, the TFSC dismissed the referenced complaint for the reasons enumerated below.

The Texas Legislature excluded the portion of an autopsy conducted by a medical examiner or other forensic pathologist who is a licensed physician from the definition of “forensic analysis.” See, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 38.01 § 2(4). Therefore, cause and manner of death and autopsy findings are outside the scope of the TFSC’s jurisdiction. Physicians are under the authority of the Texas Medical Board.

In addition, the TFSC contacted both the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (“SWIFS”) and the Texas Department of Public Safety concerning your allegation related to the GSR kit. We determined that a gunshot residue (“GSR”) sample was collected and submitted to the appropriate law enforcement agency by the SWIFS forensic pathologist but found no evidence any request was made by law enforcement for GSR forensic analysis.

Thank you and feel free to contact the TFSC with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
*Robert Smith*  
Robert Smith  
Senior Staff Attorney

RS/mka  
Encl.