

Introduction to Recommended Concepts

The following recommendations submitted for approval by the Commission are the first in a series of supplemental recommendations to Complaint No. 23.67 (Evaluation of Biological/DNA Results Given Activity Level Propositions).

At this time, there is no recommendation to add these items to the Texas accreditation checklist because the laboratories developed these by consensus and are committed to adding these concepts to their reports. The concepts are an amalgamation of reporting language taken from participating laboratories.

Full consensus for participating laboratories was obtained (Center for Human ID, Signature Science, Fort Worth Police Department, SWIFS, DNA Labs International, SWIFS, Tarrant County Medical Examiner, Bexar County Crime Lab, Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston Forensic Science Center, Bode Technology, and Texas DPS).

RECOMMENDATION: The following minimum concepts should accompany DNA reports (comparison reports containing interpretations that consider the potential source of the DNA) at the laboratory's earliest convenience. Laboratories are encouraged to develop and implement their own language that meets the spirit of these concepts.

Concepts to address in DNA reports:

1. DNA interpretations take place in the context of case information – if there is a change to this information, a new evaluation may be needed.
2. DNA comparisons can only help address whose DNA may or may not be detected.
3. The DNA interpretation will not conclude that an individual is the source of the DNA – no matter the statistical value.
4. The DNA interpretation does not provide any information about how or when the DNA was or was not deposited.
5. The DNA interpretation does not provide any information about the biological source (e.g., blood, semen, saliva) of a DNA profile.

Adopted by the Commission on October 24, 2025

Task Group Participants

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