

Standards for Approval of Continuing Forensic Education (“CFE”) Activities

Following are standards for CFE activities pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission by Code of Criminal Procedure 38.01 §4-a(d). These standards are adopted by the Commission to be used as guidance for determining whether forensic education activities submitted for CFE credit satisfy general standards for forensic activities.

- I.** Credit for forensic education activities shall be awarded if the activity meets any of the criteria in A-C below as well as the criteria outlined in Section II of this document.
 - A.** The activity is a live presentation and attended in person, including seminars, courses, conferences, lectures, panel discussions, question-and-answer periods, and in-house (laboratory-sponsored) education;
 - B.** The activity is a live or recorded presentation provided in a streaming or real time format (not downloadable) including teleconferences, webcasts, satellite broadcasts or attendance by such other means as may be approved by the Commission; or
 - C.** The activity is recorded from a live CFE activity, presented in any format, such as CDs and video recordings, as well as any downloadable format such as podcasts.

- II.** Credit for forensic education activities shall be awarded if the activity meets the criteria of either A or B below, and also each of the other criteria of C, D and E below:
 - A.** The activity consists of an organized program of forensic education dealing with substantive subjects of forensics such as (1) forensic skills and techniques; (2) forensic ethics and/or forensic professional responsibility; (3) training on forensic instrumentation; (4) statistics for forensic application; or (5) general forensic practice; or
 - B.** The activity consists of an organized program dealing with a specific forensic discipline; and
 - C.** The activity includes coverage of technical, scientific, legal or other bodies of knowledge that are directly related to any of the subjects listed in II A above.
 - D.** The instructors or lecturers are either qualified scientists, attorneys or judges, or they are experts in the subject area based on their education and background.
 - E.** The activity is relevant to forensic analysts.

- III.** A CFE activity shall NOT be awarded credit by the Commission if it is:
 - A.** A meeting of a forensic or legal association, committee, section or other entity composed of forensic scientists or attorneys, that is designed primarily to be a general business meeting or work session as opposed to a CFE activity;

- B.** An activity that teaches skills such as the general use of hardware, software, office equipment, or general communication skills such as public speaking, career building, supervisory or general office management skills;
- C.** Software and instrument training in the regular course of an analyst's work (*e.g.*, training on how to do DNA mixture interpretation using STRmix software), unless the activity is part of a more extensive training provided by a subject matter expert external to the laboratory to build expertise beyond baseline knowledge of the software or instrument operation (*e.g.*, training on a novel or new technique on an analytical method).
- D.** A forensic article, newsletter, blog or other product that is published by the author, his or her business or other employer that is not subject to peer review.

Effective date of the standards in this document—January 1, 2019.