



TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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

TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

October 25, 2024, at 9:00 AM

Barbara Jordan State Office Building
1601 Congress Avenue
Room 2.034
Austin, Texas 78701

This meeting of the Texas Forensic Science Commission (Commission) will be conducted as a videoconference meeting pursuant to Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code Section 551.127. Members of the Commission and staff may appear remotely. The Commission's officer presiding over the meeting will be present at the physical location stated on this agenda. Members of the public may attend the meeting in person at the physical location listed above, where they may participate and make public comment. The Commission will endeavor to livestream the meeting from its website at www.fsc.texas.gov, but the livestream will not include an option for the public to make comments remotely.

During this meeting, the Commission may consider and possibly take action on the following agenda items. The Commission may take breaks as necessary. The Commission may meet in closed session on any item listed below, as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

1. Call meeting to order. Roll call for members. Excuse any absent board members.
2. Review and adopt minutes from the July 26, 2024 quarterly commission meeting.
3. Office administrative update (FY2024 budget closing, FY2025 budget projections, and update on launch of database functions). (General Counsel Garcia/Associate General Counsel Tomlin)
4. Discuss and consider complaints and laboratory self-disclosures pending from the July 26, 2024 quarterly commission meeting and new complaints and laboratory self-disclosures received through October 4, 2024, as detailed below. (Commissioner Daniel)

Self-Disclosures Received as of October 4, 2024:

1. No. 24.16; Department of Public Safety – Austin (Toxicology)
2. No. 24.26; Serological Research Institute (SERI) (Forensic Biology/DNA)
3. No. 24.27; Department of Public Safety – Tyler (Toxicology)
4. No. 24.29; Department of Public Safety – Weslaco (Seized Drugs)
5. No. 24.31; Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
6. No. 24.32; DNA Reference Laboratory (Forensic Biology/DNA)



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7. No. 24.34; DNA Labs International (Forensic Biology/DNA)
8. No. 24.36; Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (Toxicology)
9. No. 24.38; Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA)
10. No. 24.39; Dallas Police Department Crime Laboratory (Latent Prints)
11. No. 24.40; NMS, Inc. (Seized Drugs)
12. No. 24.41; Sorenson Forensics (Forensic Biology/DNA)
13. No. 24.42; Austin Forensic Science Department (Seized Drugs)
14. No. 24.28; Jefferson County Regional Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)

Complaints Received as of October 4, 2024:

15. No. 24.33; Lumsden, Raymond (University of North Texas Health Science Center – Center for Human Identification; Forensic Biology/DNA)

Staff dismissals

16. No. 24.30; Ethridge, R.B. (Quest Diagnostics; Toxicology)

5. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including:
 - a. Summary of accreditation activities, communications, and reports received since the July 26, 2024 quarterly commission meeting; and
 - b. Summary of reported non-consensus proficiency testing results from accredited crime laboratories.
6. Discuss updates from licensing advisory committee, including:
 - a. Report on licenses issued and renewed;
 - b. Report on licensing issues identified by laboratories;
 - c. Report and discussion of items from October 24, 2024 Licensing Advisory Committee meeting; and
 - d. Discuss and vote on recommended updates to published, required quality standards for employing laboratories of voluntary licensees including, but not limited to, the addition of quality standards for forensic anthropologists and any changes to the requirements chart related to other voluntary licenses.
7. Discuss and vote on rule change to renumber § 651.402 to § 651.401, Notice and Hearing Request.
8. Discuss and vote on rule changes to define “inactive” license status, including but not limited to changes to § 651.8, Full Commission Accreditation, § 651.202, Definitions, and §651.207, Forensic Analyst and Forensic Technician Licensing Requirements, Including Initial License Term and Fee, Minimum Education and Coursework, General Forensic



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Examination, Proficiency Monitoring and Mandatory Legal and Professional Responsibility Training.

9. Discuss recent and upcoming forensic development training and education projects, including collaboration with the Center for Human Identification and recent presentations to the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM) on the future direction of evaluative reporting given activities in the United States following publication of the Commission's final investigative report in Complaint #23.67 (Evaluation of Biological/DNA Results Given Activity Level Propositions).
10. Update and discussion from the Commission's Firearm/Toolmarks Working Group's September 25, 2024 meeting.
11. Update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors.
12. Discuss membership in National Association of Forensic Science Boards and upcoming conference.
13. Consider possible agenda items for next quarterly meeting.
14. Schedule and location of future panel and quarterly commission meetings including, but not limited to the January 31, 2025, April 11, 2025, July 25, 2025, and October 24, 2025 quarterly commission meetings.
15. Public comment.
16. Adjourn.

To increase public access to meetings, the Commission will endeavor to live-stream the quarterly meetings on its website at www.fsc.texas.gov. However, the Commission's decision to live-stream any particular meeting does not necessarily mean that all meetings will be live-streamed. Our ability to live-stream depends on budgetary and logistical considerations at any given meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Leigh Tomlin at (512) 936-0770 or Maggie Sowatzka at Maggie.Sowatzka@fsc.texas.gov.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend a commission meeting and need assistance should contact Maggie Sowatzka at the contact information above at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements may be made.