



# TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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

## **TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

**July 25, 2025, at 9:00 AM**

Barbara Jordan State Office Building  
1601 Congress Avenue, Room 2.035  
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](http://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 April 11, 2025, quarterly commission meeting and disclosure No. 24.32 DNA Reference Laboratory (Forensic Biology/DNA) May 14, 2025 investigative panel meeting.
3. Office administrative update (FY2025 budget status report; update on implementation of ALiS licensing platform; update on office construction). (General Counsel Garcia/Associate General Counsel Tomlin)
4. Discuss and consider complaints and laboratory self-disclosures pending from the April 11, 2025 quarterly commission meeting and new complaints and laboratory self-disclosures received through July 3, 2025, as detailed below. (Commissioner Daniel)

### **Self-disclosures Pending from April 11, 2025:**

1. No. 25.06; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
2. No. 25.10; Quality Forensic Toxicology (Toxicology – Blood Alcohol)

### **Self-Disclosures Received as of July 3, 2025:**

3. No. 24.56; Sorenson Forensics (Forensic Biology/DNA)
4. No. 24.57; NMS Labs (Seized Drugs)



## TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

*1700 North Congress Ave., Suite 445  
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5. No. 25.18; Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA)
6. No. 25.21; Houston Forensic Science Center (Crime Scene Investigation)
7. No. 25.22; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
8. No. 25.23; Serological Research Institute (Forensic Biology/DNA)
9. No. 25.24; Serological Research Institute (Forensic Biology/DNA)
10. No. 25.25; Signature Science, LLC (Forensic Biology/DNA)
11. No. 25.26; Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (Forensic Biology/DNA)
12. No. 25.30; Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory (Toxicology; Blood Alcohol)
13. No. 25.32; Department of Public Safety – Lubbock (Seized Drugs)
14. No. 25.35; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs Evidence)
15. No. 25.36; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
16. No. 25.37; Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
17. No. 25.38; Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Toxicology; Blood Alcohol)
18. No. 25.39; Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
19. No. 25.19; Department of Public Safety – Houston (Seized Drugs Evidence)
20. No. 25.31; Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory System (Seized Drugs and Toxicology Evidence)
21. No. 25.33; Department of Public Safety – Weslaco (Seized Drugs)
22. No. 25.16; Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA; Qiagen Manufacturing Issue)
23. No. 25.17; Signature Science (Forensic Biology/DNA; Qiagen Manufacturing Issue)

### Complaints Received as of July 3, 2025

24. No. 25.28; Parker, Amber (Alere Toxicology Services; Toxicology)
25. No. 25.29; Sween, Gretchen (Houston Forensic Science Center; Latent Prints)
26. No. 25.40; Swiergula, Jennae (Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences; Forensic Biology/DNA)

### Staff Dismissals

27. No. 25.20; Rosario, Richard (Austin State Hospital/DNA Reference Laboratory; Forensic Biology/DNA)

5. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including:
  - a. Summary of accreditation activities, communications, and reports received since the July 3, 2025, quarterly commission meeting;



## TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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- b. Summary of reported non-consensus proficiency testing results from accredited crime laboratories; and
  - c. Discuss and vote on rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to § 651.5, to add Rapid DNA to the list of forensic disciplines subject to Commission accreditation requirements.
- 6. Discuss updates from licensing advisory committee, including:
  - a. Report on licenses issued and renewed;
  - b. Report and discussion of items from July 24, 2025, Licensing Advisory Committee meeting;
  - c. Review and possibly adopt any coursework and/or criminal history evaluation recommendations from Licensing Advisory Committee;
  - d. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to § 651.207, Forensic Analyst and Forensic Technician Licensing Requirements, Including Initial License Term and Fee, Minimum Education and Coursework, General Forensic Examination, Proficiency Monitoring and Mandatory Legal and Professional Responsibility Training, to require forensic biology/DNA analyst compliance with current coursework requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing rather than the older, 2011 requirements;
  - e. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to § 651.222, Voluntary Licensure Forensic Analyst and Technician Licensing Requirements to 1) permit latent print analysts working in unaccredited laboratories to fulfill the certification requirement for licensure through a competency exam administered by the Texas Division of the International Association for Identification or proctor approved by the Commission; and 2) qualify crime scene reconstruction analysts with a high school diploma or equivalent degree for licensure;
  - f. Discuss and vote on Licensing Advisory Committee re-appointments of eligible members; and
  - g. Report on licensing issues identified by laboratories.
- 7. Update from investigative panel for self-disclosure No. 24.32; (DNA Reference Laboratory; Forensic Biology/DNA), including review and possible adoption of final investigative report.
- 8. Update from investigative panel on complaint No. 24.45; Thiessen, Mark (Department of Public Safety Houston; Toxicology).
- 9. Update from investigative panel on complaint No. 24.46; Nilles, Patrick (Forensic Forgery Experts; Document Examination).



## TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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10. Update from staff and review and possible adoption of amended final investigative report for complaint No. 24.58; Schuette, Kevin (Department of Public Safety – Tyler; Seized Drugs).
11. Report from the Commission’s Firearm/Toolmark Working Group meetings, including the April 30, 2025 Firearm/Toolmark Method Conformance Working Group meeting, the May 2, and June 17, 2025 Firearm/Toolmark Blind Verification Working Group meeting, and the upcoming September 30, 2025 Firearms Working Group meeting.
12. Update and discuss the Commission’s April 17, 2025 and June 27, 2025 statewide task force on Rapid DNA meetings in Austin, Texas, including possible adoption of expanded scope of work.
13. Discussion re: forensic apprenticeship pilot program (SB 1620). (Stout/Garcia))
14. Discuss recent and upcoming forensic development training and education projects.
15. Report from the DNA Technical Leader Working Group on reporting and testimony related to DNA evaluations given activity level propositions. (Garcia)
16. Update regarding Department of Public Safety on Crime Laboratory Records Connect portal including administrative rules and funding for laboratories within Office of the Governor.
17. Update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors, including legislative update on items of interest to forensic community. (Stout)
18. Consider possible agenda items for next quarterly meeting.
19. Schedule and location of future panel and quarterly commission meetings including, but not limited, to the October 24, 2025; January 30, 2026; April 24, 2026; July 31, 2026; and October 23, 2026 quarterly commission meetings.
20. Public comment.
21. 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](http://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 Commission Coordinator, Chelsea Estes, at (512) 936-0770 or [Chelsea.Estes@fsc.texas.gov](mailto:Chelsea.Estes@fsc.texas.gov).**



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**Persons with disabilities may contact Ms. Estes at the contact information above at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements may be made.**