



TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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

TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

January 30, 2026, 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, but the livestream will not include an option for the public to make comments remotely. During this meeting, the Commission may consider and possibly act 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 October 24, 2025 quarterly commission meeting.
3. Office administrative update (including, but not limited to, the following administrative items for update and discussion: FY2026 budget; implementation of ALiS licensing platform; and office construction). (General Counsel Garcia/Associate General Counsel Tomlin)
4. Discuss and consider complaints and laboratory self-disclosures pending from the October 24, 2025 quarterly commission meeting and new complaints and laboratory self-disclosures received through January 9, 2026, as detailed below. (Commissioner Daniel)

Self-Disclosures Received through January 9, 2026:

1. No. 25.45; Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA)
2. No. 25.60; Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
3. No. 25.61; Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
4. No. 25.62; Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
5. No. 25.63; Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)
6. No. 25.64; Quality Forensic Toxicology, LLC (Toxicology)
7. No. 25.66; Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (Forensic Biology/DNA)



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8. No. 25.68; Jefferson County Regional Crime Laboratory (Crime Scene Investigation; Seized Drugs; Forensic Biology Screening)
9. No. 25.69; Serological Research Institute (Forensic Biology/DNA)
10. No. 25.65; Dallas Police Department Crime Scene Division (Evidence; Crime Scene Investigation)
11. No. 25.70; Austin Forensic Science (Evidence; Crime Scene Investigation)
12. No. 25.72; Department of Public Safety – Tyler (Evidence; Seized Drugs)

Complaints Pending from October 24, 2025:

13. No. 25.29; Sween, Gretchen (Houston Forensic Science Center; Ron Smith and Associates; Forensic Biology/DNA, Friction Ridge)

Complaints Received through January 9, 2026

14. No. 25.73; Hyman, Jennifer (ExperTox; Toxicology)
15. No. 25.74; Smith, Antoine (Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences; Forensic Biology/DNA)
16. No. 25.77; North Texas Federal Public Defender's Office (Houston Police Department; Firearms/Toolmarks)
17. No. 26.01; Newsome, Jacob (Houston Forensic Science Center; Forensic Biology/DNA)

Staff Dismissals

18. No. 25.71; Allen, Elaine (Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences; Autopsy)
19. No. 25.75; Yarborough, Jason (Laboratory Not Identified; Non-forensic allegations)

5. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including: (Tomlin)
 - a. Summary of accreditation activities, communications, and reports received since the October 24, 2025 quarterly commission meeting;
 - b. Summary of reported non-consensus proficiency testing results from accredited crime laboratories; and
 - c. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to Section 651.7, Disciplines Exempt from Commission Accreditation Requirements by Administrative Rule, to exempt examinations or tests performed on non-lethal munitions from accreditation and licensing requirements.
6. Discuss updates from licensing advisory committee, including: (Tomlin)
 - a. Report on licenses issued and renewed;



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- b. Report and discuss items from January 29, 2026 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 Section 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: 1) remove the fee for a temporary forensic analyst and technician license; and 2) clarify scope of toxicology categories of licensure;
- e. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to Section 651.216, Disciplinary Action to harmonize language related to disciplinary actions by the Commission with Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 38.01, Section 4-c;
- f. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to Section 651.219, Code of Professional Responsibility to clarify the Section's applicability to accredited law enforcement agency crime laboratory managers only; and
- g. Report on licensing issues identified by laboratories.

7. Update re: Statewide Firearms Working Group, including the group's December 9, 2025 meeting with NIST. (Garcia/Smith)

8. Update re: Statewide Task Force on Rapid DNA, including the group's November 7, 2025 and January 9, 2026 meetings in Austin, Texas. (Garcia)

9. Update re: Texas Forensic Analyst Apprenticeship Pilot (TFAAP) Program (Garcia)

- a. Meetings on November 7, 2025 and January 9, 2026.
- b. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, new Subchapter G Texas Forensic Analyst Apprenticeship Program (TFAAP) to establish program rules for accredited crime laboratories and apprentices qualifying for the TFAAP program.

10. Discuss recent and upcoming forensic development training and education projects. (Garcia)

11. Report from the DNA Technical Leader Working Group on reporting and testimony. (Kennedy)

12. Update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors. (Dr. Peter Stout, Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors)



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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 April 24, 2026; July 31, 2026; October 23, 2026; January 29, 2027, and April 30, 2027.
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 technology 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.

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.