



# TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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

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

**January 31, 2025, 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](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 October 25, 2024 quarterly commission meeting.
3. Office administrative update (FY2025 budget status report, introduction of new Commission Coordinator Chelsea Estes, and update on populating database). (General Counsel Garcia/Associate General Counsel Tomlin)
4. Discuss and consider complaints and laboratory self-disclosures pending from the October 25, 2024 quarterly commission meeting and new complaints and laboratory self-disclosures received through January 10, 2025, as detailed below. (Commissioner Daniel)

### **Self-Disclosures Received as of January 10, 2025:**

1. No. 24.26; Serological Research Institute (Forensic Biology/DNA)
2. No. 24.32; DNA Reference Laboratory (Forensic Biology/DNA)
3. No. 24.47; NMS Labs (Seized Drugs)
4. No. 24.48; NMS Labs (Toxicology)
5. No. 24.49; Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (Toxicology)



## TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

---

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6. No. 24.50; Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office Crime Laboratory (Toxicology)
7. No. 24.51; Jefferson County Regional Crime Laboratory (Forensic Biology Screening)
8. No. 24.52; Department of Public Safety Breath Alcohol Laboratory – Cleburne (Breath Alcohol)
9. No. 24.55; Austin Forensic Science Department (Seized Drugs)
10. No. 25.01; Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (Toxicology)
11. No. 25.02; Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA)
12. No. 25.04; NMS Labs (Toxicology)
13. No. 24.54; Department of Public Safety Austin (Seized Drugs)

### Complaints Received as of January 10, 2025:

14. No. 24.45; Thiessen, Mark (Department of Public Safety Houston; Toxicology)
15. No. 24.46; Nilles, Patrick (Forensic Forgery Experts; Document Examination)
16. No. 24.58; Schuette, Kevin (Department of Public Safety – Tyler; Seized Drugs)
17. No. 25.03; Atkinson, Lucio (Department of Public – Austin; Seized Drugs)

### Staff Dismissals:

18. No. 24.43; Anonymous (Veritaco, LLC; Digital/Multimedia)
19. No. 24.44; Robinson, Bianca (Laboratory Not Specified; No Forensic Analysis)
20. No. 24.53; Robertson, Rhonda (Laboratory Not Specified; No Forensic Analysis)

5. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including:
  - a. Summary of accreditation activities, communications, and reports received since the October 25, 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 and discussion of items from January 30, 2025 Licensing Advisory Committee meeting;
  - c. Review and possibly adopt any coursework recommendations from Licensing Advisory Committee; and



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- d. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to § 651.222, Voluntary Licensure Forensic Analyst and Forensic Technician Licensing Requirements, to require crime scene voluntary licensees to complete the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) Course Number 2106 Intermediate Crime Scene Search without limitation to any date or version of the course.
7. 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 Examination, Proficiency Monitoring, and Mandatory Legal and Professional Responsibility Training.
8. Review and discuss Austin Forensic Science Department’s external review of firearms casework and training documentation extending from self-disclosure No. 23.18; Austin Forensic Science Department (Firearms/Toolmarks).
9. Review and possible adoption of final investigation report on self-disclosure No. 24.29; Department of Public Safety – Weslaco (Seized Drugs) investigation.
10. Update and discuss the Commission’s December 9, 2024 Firearm/Toolmark Working Group meeting.
11. Discuss recent and upcoming forensic development training and education projects.
12. Update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors.
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 April 11, 2025; July 25, 2025; October 24, 2025; and January 30, 2026 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](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-**



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**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).**

**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.**