



TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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

TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

April 24, 2026, 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 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 January 30, 2026 quarterly commission meeting.
3. Office administrative update (including, but not limited to, the following administrative items for update and discussion: FY2026 budget status report; 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 January 30, 2026 quarterly commission meeting and new complaints and laboratory self-disclosures received through April 3, 2026, as detailed below. (Commissioner Daniel)

Self-Disclosures Received through April 3, 2026:

1. No. 25.51; Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA)
2. No. 26.07; Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (Seized Drugs)
3. No. 26.08; Serological Research Institute (Forensic Biology/DNA)
4. No. 26.14; Bode Technology, Inc. (Forensic Biology/DNA)
5. No. 26.15; Department of Public Safety Austin (Seized Drugs)
6. No. 26.18; Department of Public Safety Waco (Forensic Biology/DNA)

7. No. 25.76; Center for Human Identification (Evidence; Forensic Biology/DNA)
8. No. 26.16; Department of Public Safety Garland (Evidence; Seized Drugs)

Complaints Pending from January 30, 2026:

9. No. 25.29; Sween, Gretchen (Houston Forensic Science Center; Ron Smith and Associates; Forensic Biology/DNA, Friction Ridge)
10. No. 25.74; Smith, Antoine (Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences; Forensic Biology/DNA)
11. No. 26.01; Narrative Project (Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences; Forensic Biology/DNA)

Complaints Received through April 3, 2026

12. No. 26.02; Paul, Melvin (Houston Forensic Science Center; Forensic Biology/DNA)
13. No. 26.03; Floyd, James (Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory; Forensic Biology/DNA)
14. No. 26.06; Narrative Project (Montgomery County Sheriff's Office; Crime Scene Reconstruction)
15. No. 26.11; Narrative Project (Houston Forensic Science Center; Montgomery County Sheriff's Office; Forensic Biology/DNA)
16. No. 26.12; Innocence Project (Nurse Lori Long, Dr. Ruda, Dr. Phatak; Bitemark Evidence, Autopsy)
17. No. 26.13; Massey, Colleen (Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences; Crime Scene Investigation, Autopsy)

Staff Dismissals

18. No. 26.04; Novroski, Nicole (Center for Human Identification; Forensic Biology/DNA)
19. No. 26.05; Barajas, Briza (Wharton County District Attorney's Office; Evidence Handling)

5. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including: (Tomlin)
 - a. Summary of accreditation activities, communications, and reports received since the January 30, 2026 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;
 - b. Report and discuss items from April 23, 2026 Licensing Advisory Committee meeting;

- c. Review and possibly adopt any coursework and/or criminal history evaluation recommendations from the Licensing Advisory Committee;
 - d. Report from Crime Scene Investigation Standard Operating Procedure Course, held in Austin on March 30-April 2, 2026;
 - e. 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;
 - f. 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 reduce the number of work experience years required for firearms/toolmarks examiners to qualify for a waiver of coursework or minimum education requirements; and
 - g. Report on licensing issues identified by laboratories.
7. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to Section 651.307, Investigative Panels, to revise the rule heading from "Investigative Panels" to "Investigative Procedures," to accurately reflect investigative processes may be conducted by Commission staff or by an investigative panel of commissioners.
 8. Review and possibly adopt final investigative report from self-disclosure No. 25.66; Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (Forensic Biology/DNA).
 9. Review and possibly adopt final investigative report from self-disclosure No. 25.68; Jefferson County Regional Crime Laboratory (Crime Scene Investigation; Seized Drugs; Forensic Biology Screening).
 10. Update from investigative panel in complaint No. 25.77; Federal Public Defender's Office (Houston Police Department/Houston Forensic Science Center; Firearms/Toolmarks).
 11. Update re: Statewide Firearms Working Group, including the group's February 23 and March 2, 2026 meetings with representatives from NIST. (Garcia/Smith)
 12. Update re: Statewide Working Group on Rapid DNA, including the March 6, 2026 meeting, and the Licensing Advisory Committee's Rapid DNA Operator License Subcommittee's April 7, 2026 meeting. (Garcia)
 13. Update re: Texas Forensic Analyst Apprenticeship Pilot (TFAAP) Program (Garcia)
 - a. Status of Program Development and Applicable Interim Charge; and
 - b. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, new Subchapter G Texas Forensic Analyst Apprenticeship Pilot (TFAAP) Program to establish program rules for accredited crime laboratories and apprentices qualifying for the TFAAP program.
 14. Discuss potential Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) access changes, including expansion to private laboratories and consider impact to Texas laboratories. (Garcia/Kerrigan)

15. Discuss American Medical Association's resolution setting standards for forensic toxicology laboratories. (Kerrigan)
16. Discuss recent and upcoming forensic development training and education projects. (Garcia)
17. Report from the DNA Technical Leader Working Group on reporting and testimony, including the group's March 26-27, 2026 meeting. (Kennedy)
18. Update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors. (Dr. Peter Stout, Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors)
19. Consider possible agenda items for next quarterly meeting.
20. Schedule and location of future panel and quarterly commission meetings including, but not limited, to July 31, 2026; October 23, 2026; January 29, 2027; April 30, 2027; and July 30, 2027.
21. Public comment.
22. 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.