



TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

*1701 North Congress Ave., Suite 6-700
Austin, Texas 78701*

TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

October 23, 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 July 31, 2026 quarterly commission meeting.
3. Office administrative update (including, but not limited to, the following administrative items: adopt FY2027 budget; FY2026 closing 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 July 31, 2026 quarterly commission meeting and new complaints and laboratory self-disclosures received through October 2, 2026, as detailed below. (Commission Staff)

Self-Disclosures Pending from July 31, 2026, meeting:

1. No. 26.10; Corpus Christi Police Department Crime Laboratory (Firearms/Toolmarks)
2. No. 26.14; Bode Technology, Inc. (Forensic Biology/DNA)

Received through October 2, 2026:

3. No. 26.50; Houston Forensic Science Center (Crime Scene Investigation)
4. No. 26.51; Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory (Forensic Biology/DNA)
5. No. 26.57; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Firearms/Toolmarks)
6. No. 26.61; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Forensic Biology/DNA)
7. No. 26.64; Dallas Police Department Crime Scene Division (Latent Prints)
8. No. 26.65; Forensic Analytical Crime Laboratory (Forensic Biology/DNA)
9. No. 26.66; Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (Forensic Biology/DNA)
10. No. 26.72; NMS Labs – Willow Grove (Seized Drugs)
11. No. 25.67; Department of Public Safety – Austin (Evidence; Toxicology)
12. No. 26.27; Houston Forensic Science Center (Records Retention; Toxicology)
13. No. 26.44; Department of Public Safety – Austin (Evidence; Materials (Trace))
14. No. 26.52; Department of Public Safety – El Paso (Evidence; Firearms/Toolmarks)
15. No. 26.63; Department of Public Safety – Houston (Evidence; Toxicology)
16. No. 26.71; Dallas Police Department Crime Scene Division (Crime Scene Investigation)

Complaints Pending from July 31, 2026 commission meeting:

17. No. 26.47; Backstrom, Steven (Unnamed Expert; Sexual Assault Nurse Examination)
18. No. 26.49; Wilson, Donald (Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office; Firearms/Toolmarks)

Complaints Received through October 2, 2026:

19. No. 26.54; Rose, Jesse (Department of Public Safety – Austin; Evidence; Forensic Biology/DNA)
20. No. 26.56; Barnum, Timothy (Department of Public Safety – Garland; Firearms/Toolmarks)
21. No. 26.58; Hughes, Nicolas (Harris County District Attorney's Office; Digital/Multimedia Evidence)
22. No. 26.59; Anonymous (Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences; Digital/Multimedia Evidence)
23. No. 26.60; Herod, Richard (Department of Public Safety – Houston; Forensic Biology/DNA)
24. No. 26.70; Sanford, George Evin (Department of Public Safety – Houston; Forensic Biology/DNA)
25. No. 26.62; Carter, James (Texas Tech; Sexual Assault Nurse Examination)
26. No. 26.74; Federal Public Defender Office Northern District of Texas (Houston Forensic Science Center; Firearms/Toolmarks)

Dismissals Recommended by Staff:

- 27. No. 26.53; Schirmer, Alexandria (El Paso Medical Examiner's Office; Autopsy)
- 28. No. 26.55; Salinas, Martin (Kerr County District Attorney's Office; Crime Scene Investigation)
- 29. No. 26.67; Williams, Ayinde (Department of Public Safety – Houston; Forensic Biology/DNA)
- 30. No. 26.69; Brown, Anthony Scott (None; Forensic Biology/DNA)
- 31. No. 26.73; Hicks, Marie (Department of Public Safety – Tyler; Firearms/Toolmarks)

- 5. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program (Tomlin), including:
 - a. Summary of accreditation activities, communications, and reports received since the July 31, 2026 quarterly commission meeting; and
 - b. Summary of reported non-consensus proficiency testing results from accredited crime laboratories.
- 6. Discuss updates from the Licensing Advisory Committee (Tomlin), including:
 - a. Report on licenses issued and renewed;
 - b. Report and discuss items from the October 22, 2026 committee meeting;
 - c. Discuss General Forensic Analyst Licensing Exam II audit and final corrective action report;
 - d. Review and possibly vote on any waiver of specific coursework and/or minimum education requirement recommendations from the Licensing Advisory Committee, pursuant to 37 Texas Administrative Code, Section 651.207(g), Waiver of Specific Coursework Requirements and/or Minimum Education Requirements for Lateral Hires, Promoting Analysts and Current Employees;
 - e. Review and possibly vote on any specific coursework evaluation recommendations pursuant to 37 Texas Administrative Code, Section 651.207, Forensic Analyst and Forensic Technician Licensing Requirements;
 - f. Review and possibly vote on any criminal history evaluation recommendations pursuant to 37 Texas Administrative Code, Section 651.218, Preliminary Evaluation of License Eligibility Based on Criminal History from the Licensing Advisory Committee;
 - g. Discuss and vote on rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to Section 651.219, Code of Professional Responsibility, to clarify Section 651.219(b)(15), which requires license holders to communicate honestly and fully with all parties, including the Commission;
 - h. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to amendments to Section 651.207, Forensic Analyst and Forensic Technician Licensing Requirements, to remove provisions related to the birthdate expiration transition as these provisions no longer apply; and
 - i. Report on licensing issues identified by laboratories.
- 7. Provide update on status of Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory Portal implementation. Discuss and vote on rule changes including, but not limited to, new Subchapter F, Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory Portal Compliance, pursuant to Government Code Section 411.163(b), which authorizes the Commission to take disciplinary

action against laboratories that do not comply with the requirement to participate in CLR Connect. (Callahan/Tomlin)

8. Provide update regarding investigative panel in complaint No. 25.77; Federal Public Defender's Office (Houston Police Department/Houston Forensic Science Center; Firearms/Toolmarks). (Garcia)
9. Adopt the final investigative report from investigative panel in self-disclosure No. 26.07; Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (Seized Drugs). (Smith)
10. Appoint members to investigative panel in complaint No. 26.26; Office of Capitol and Forensic Writs (San Antonio Police Department; Digital/Multimedia). Vote to consolidate with complaint 26.58 (Harris County District Attorney's District Attorney's Office). (Smith)
11. Review and possibly adopt final investigative report from investigative panel in self-disclosure No. 26.09; Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA). (Smith)
12. Review and possibly adopt final investigative report from investigative panel in self-disclosure No. 26.17; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs). (Smith)
13. Review and possibly adopt final investigative report from investigative panel in self-disclosure No. 26.19; Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (Forensic Biology/DNA). (Smith)
14. Discuss DNA Forge vulnerability notice and consider what information the Commission may publish to assist the community in understanding the issue. (Garcia/Ziemak)
15. Update regarding Statewide Firearms Working Group. (Garcia/Smith)
16. Update regarding Statewide Working Group on Rapid DNA, including but not limited to, review and possible adoption of 1) sample acceptance criteria documents; and 2) accredited crime laboratory/law enforcement agency memorandum of understanding (MOU). (Kennedy)
17. Update regarding Texas Forensic Analyst Apprenticeship Pilot Program (TFAAPP) including status of program development and applicable interim charge. (Garcia)
18. Discuss recent and upcoming forensic development training and education projects. (Garcia)
19. Report from the DNA Technical Leader Working Group on reporting and testimony, including review and possible adoption of Reporting and Testimony Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guidance document. (Kennedy)
20. Update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors (TACL D), including presentation by Peter Stout, President of TACL D, regarding recent rule changes related to Delta-8 and Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol and their potential impact on crime laboratories.

21. Consider possible agenda items for next quarterly meeting.
22. Schedule and location of future panel and quarterly commission meetings including, but not limited, to January 29, 2027; April 30, 2027; July 30, 2027; October 22, 2027; and January 28, 2028.
23. Public comment.
24. 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 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.