



TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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

TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

April 26, 2024, 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 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 January 26, 2024 quarterly commission meeting and amended minutes from the April 14, 2023 quarterly commission meeting.
3. Office administrative update (FY2024 third quarter budget status report; update on status of launch of database functions, including complaint and disclosure portal and quality incident portal). (General Counsel Garcia/Associate General Counsel Tomlin)
4. Discuss and consider complaints and laboratory self-disclosures pending from the January 26, 2024 quarterly commission meeting and new complaints and laboratory self-disclosures received through April 5, 2024, as detailed below. (Commissioner Daniel)

Self-disclosure pending from January 26, 2024:

1. No. 23.40; Houston Forensic Science Center (Forensic Biology/DNA)

Self-disclosures received as of April 5, 2024:

2. No. 23.65; Signature Science (Forensic Biology Screening)



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3. No. 23.66; Sorenson Forensics (Forensic Biology/DNA)
4. No. 24.03; Houston Forensic Science Center (Crime Scene Investigation)
5. No. 24.04; Department of Public Safety – Houston (Forensic Biology/DNA)
6. No. 24.05; University of North Texas Health Science Center – Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA)
7. No. 24.02; Department of Public Safety – Abilene (Seized Drugs)
8. No. 24.10; University of North Texas Health Science Center – Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA)

Complaints received as of April 5, 2024:

9. No. 24.01; Li, Ya (Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences; Forensic Biology/DNA)
10. No. 24.06; Hunt, Kenneth (Department of Public Safety – Houston; Forensic Biology/DNA)

5. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including:
 - a. Summary of accreditation activities, communications, and reports received since the January 26, 2024 quarterly commission meeting;
 - b. Summary of reported non-consensus proficiency testing results from accredited crime laboratories;
 - c. Discuss and vote on rule changes to clarify the scope of the accreditation exemption for certain testing performed for supervision services subsequently entered into evidence in a criminal action, including but not limited to changes to §§ 651.7 and 651.2;
 - d. Discuss and review American Association of Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) Specific Requirements for Forensic Science Commission formalized standard documents R221b and C221b – Annex B – Texas Forensic Science Commission Specific Checklist pursuant to ISO/IEC 17011 standard compliance;
 - e. Discuss memorandum to laboratories describing disclosure expectations and timing of disclosures to Commission;
 - f. Update on City of Austin Forensic Science Department Internal Review (Firearms/Toolmarks).
6. Discuss updates from licensing advisory committee, including:
 - a. Report on licenses issued and renewed;
 - b. Report from April 25, 2024 Licensing Advisory Committee meeting action items;
 - c. Discuss and vote on rule changes that further develop the Commission’s voluntary licensure program including, but not limited to, changes and additions to §§ 651.202 and 651.222;



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- d. Discuss and vote on rule changes related to the Commission's rules on license expiration dates including, but not limited to, changes to §§ 651.207 and 651.208;
 - e. Discuss and vote on licensing advisory committee's recommendation on statistics course options for licensees; and
 - f. Discuss and vote on any updates to published, required quality standards for employing laboratories of voluntary licensees.
7. Discuss and vote on rule change to renumber § 651.402 to § 651.401, Notice and Hearing Request.
 8. Discuss and vote on four-year rule review: Texas Administrative Code, Title 37, Chapter 651, Subchapters A, B, C, and D.
 9. Review and possible adoption of final investigative report for complaint #21.27 University of Colorado, National Innocence Project on behalf of Nanon Williams (Houston PD/Houston Forensic Science Center) (Firearms/Toolmarks).
 10. Review and possible adoption of final investigative report for complaint #23.67 Roy, Tiffany (Timothy Kalafut; Forensic Biology/DNA).
 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 July 26, 2024, October 25, 2024, and January 31, 2025 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. However, the Commission's decision to live-stream any particular meeting should not be interpreted as a guarantee that all meetings will be live-streamed. Our ability to live-stream depends on budgetary constraints and logistical considerations at any given meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Leigh Tomlin at (512) 936-0770 or Maggie Sowatzka at Maggie.Sowatzka@fsc.texas.gov.



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Persons with disabilities who plan to attend a commission meeting and need assistance should contact Maggie Sowatzka at the contact information above at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements may be made.