



TEXAS FORENSIC
SCIENCE COMMISSION

Justice Through Science

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

August 21, 2015

Dear Accredited Laboratory Directors:

This letter is to notify you that the Texas Legislature recently passed Senate Bill-1287, signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 20, 2015. The bill transfers the responsibility for accrediting laboratories from the Texas Department of Public Safety ("DPS") to the Texas Forensic Science Commission ("Commission") effective September 1, 2015.

Members of the Commission's staff are in contact with DPS staff to ensure a smooth transition between the two agencies. Please continue to work with DPS until September 1, 2015, but after that date please send all required crime laboratory accreditation documents to the Commission at the following mailing address:

Texas Forensic Science Commission
ATTN: Laboratory Accreditation Program
1700 North Congress Avenue, Suite 445
Austin, Texas 78701

If you prefer, you may also email accreditation-related inquiries and documents to Leigh Tomlin, Commission Coordinator at leigh@fsc.texas.gov. Ms. Tomlin may also be reached by telephone at 512-936-0661.

The Commission has also been directed to establish administrative rules governing laboratory accreditation, as DPS was when the program was under their jurisdiction. The Commission may establish or amend the DPS accreditation rules over time, but until any changes are made, laboratories shall adhere to the rules currently in place in Title 37, Texas Administrative Code, Part 1, Chapter 28, Subchapter I. As part of the transitional process, the Secretary of State will move the DPS rules to a separate section of the Administrative Code. We will notify you when that transfer occurs.

Members and staff of the Commission look forward to working with you and your laboratory personnel on laboratory accreditation matters. Please remember the requirement in Article 38.01 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure for self-reporting of any professional negligence or professional misconduct that may occur in your laboratory. Any questions regarding the self-reporting requirement should be directed to the Commission's General Counsel, Lynn Garcia at lynn.garcia@fsc.texas.gov or 512-936-0649.

Thank you for your cooperation with this change in Texas law.

Sincerely, ..

Vincent J. M. DiMaio, MD
Presiding Officer