



TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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

TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

October 24, 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, 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 25, 2025, quarterly commission meeting and September 5, 2025, investigative panel meeting for disclosure No. 24.45 Thiessen, Mark (Department of Public Safety – Houston; Toxicology).
3. Office administrative update (including but not limited to the following administrative items for discussion: introduction of Commission Scientific Program Coordinator Jarrah Kennedy; FY2025 budget year-end report; FY2026 proposed budget; update on implementation of ALiS licensing platform; update on office construction). (General Counsel Garcia/Associate General Counsel Tomlin)
4. Discuss and consider complaints and laboratory self-disclosures pending from the July 25, 2025, quarterly commission meeting and new complaints and laboratory self-disclosures received through October 3, 2025, as detailed below. (Commissioner Daniel)

Self-disclosures Pending from July 25, 2025:

1. No. 25.23; Serological Research Institute (Forensic Biology/DNA)
2. No. 25.24; Serological Research Institute (Forensic Biology/DNA)

Self-Disclosures Received as of October 3, 2025:



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3. No. 24.60; Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA)
4. No. 25.27; Department of Public Safety – Lubbock (Seized Drugs)
5. No. 25.43; Signature Science (Forensic Biology/DNA)
6. No. 25.44; Jefferson County Regional Crime Laboratory (Toxicology: Blood Alcohol)
7. No. 25.55; Dallas Police Department Crime Scene Division (Crime Scene)
8. No. 25.58; Plano Police Department Crime Scene Investigative Unit (Crime Scene)
9. No. 25.59; Plano Police Department Crime Scene Investigative Unit (Crime Scene)
10. No. 25.50; Austin Forensic Science Department (Evidence; Sexual Assault Kit)
11. No. 25.42; Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory Division (Evidence; Toxicology)
12. No. 25.46; Othram (Evidence; Forensic Biology/DNA)

Complaints Pending from July 25, 2025:

13. No. 25.29; Sween, Gretchen (Houston Forensic Science Center; Ron Smith and Associates; Forensic Biology/DNA, Friction Ridge)

Complaints Received as of October 3, 2025

14. No. 25.41; Moorehouse, Martha (Texas Tech University Health Science Center of Nursing; Sexual Assault Nurse Examination)
15. No. 25.48; Schuette, Kevin (Department of Public Safety – Lubbock; Seized Drugs)
16. No. 25.52; Cale, Cynthia (Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences; Forensic Biology/DNA)
17. No. 25.54; Featherston, Robert (Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory; Seized Drugs)
18. No. 25.57; Loudon, Kevin (NMS Labs – Willow Grove; Seized Drugs)

Staff Dismissals

19. No. 25.47; Anonymous (Center for Human Identification; General Conflict Allegations Unrelated to Forensic Analysis)
20. No. 25.49; Rogers, Chaz (Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences; Autopsy; Firearms/Toolmarks)
21. No. 25.56; Cheney, Lindsey (Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office Crime Laboratory; Autopsy)

5. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including: (Tomlin)
 - a. Summary of accreditation activities, communications, and reports received since the July 25, 2025, quarterly commission meeting; and



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- b. Summary of reported non-consensus proficiency testing results from accredited crime laboratories.
6. Discuss updates from licensing advisory committee, including: (Tomlin)
 - a. Report on licenses issued and renewed;
 - b. Report and discuss items from October 23, 2025, Licensing Advisory Committee meeting;
 - c. Review and possibly adopt any coursework and/or criminal history evaluation recommendations from Licensing Advisory Committee;
 - d. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to Section 651.222, Voluntary Licensure Forensic Analyst and Technician Licensing Requirements to: 1) permit latent print analysts working in unaccredited laboratories to fulfill the certification requirement for licensure through a competency examination administered by the Texas Division of the International Association for Identification or proctor approved by the Commission; and 2) qualify crime scene reconstruction analysts with a high school diploma or equivalent degree for licensure assuming fulfillment of other licensing requirements;
 - e. 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: 1) remove the fee for a temporary forensic analyst and technician license; and 2) clarify scope of toxicology categories of licensure;
 - f. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to amendments to Section 651.216, Disciplinary Action to harmonize language related to disciplinary actions by the Commission with Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 38.01, Section 4-c;
 - g. Discuss and vote on Licensing Advisory Committee nominations for any open seats; and
 - h. Report on licensing issues identified by laboratories.
7. Review and possible adoption of final investigative report on complaint No. 24.45; Thiessen, Mark (Department of Public Safety Houston; Toxicology). (Garcia/Staff Attorney Smith)
8. Report from Statewide Firearms Working Group: (Garcia/Smith)
 - a. September 30, 2025, Firearm/Toolmark Working Group Validation Assessment Tool (VAST) Working Session by Henry Swofford and Steve Lund from the National Institute of Standards and Technology;
 - b. Approve the blind verification policies as recommended by the Commission's Blind Verification Working Group; and
 - c. Approve the formation of the Method Conformance Working Group chaired by Steve Aston.



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9. Update re: Statewide Task Force on Rapid DNA, including the group's upcoming November 7, 2025, meeting in Austin, Texas. (Garcia)
10. Update and discussion re: forensic apprenticeship pilot program (SB 1620). (Garcia)
11. Discuss recent and upcoming forensic development training and education projects. (Garcia)
12. Report from the DNA Technical Leader Working Group on reporting and testimony related to DNA evaluations given activity level propositions. (Kennedy)
13. Update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors. (Dr. Peter Stout, Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors)
14. Consider possible agenda items for next quarterly meeting.
15. Schedule and location of future panel and quarterly commission meetings including, but not limited, to the January 30, 2026; April 24, 2026; July 31, 2026; October 23, 2026; and January 29, 2027, quarterly commission meetings.
16. Public comment.
17. 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 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.

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.