



TEXAS FORENSIC  
SCIENCE COMMISSION

*Justice Through Science*

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

January 10, 2023

Ms. Erika Ziemak  
Houston Forensic Science Center  
500 Jefferson Street  
Houston, Texas 77002

RE: Application for Renewal of Texas Forensic Science Commission Accreditation under Title 37, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 651.

Dear Ms. Ziemak:

With some exceptions, the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 38.35, requires Texas Forensic Science Commission (“FSC”) accreditation as a predicate to the admission of the forensic analysis of physical evidence and expert testimony relating to the evidence in a criminal case.

As the designee of the Texas Forensic Science Commission Presiding Officer, I have considered your application for renewal of FSC Accreditation and grant full accreditation to the Houston Forensic Science Center for the following forensic disciplines:

<b>Forensic Discipline: Forensic Biology</b>		
<b>Component/Parameter</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Key Equipment/Technology</b>
DNA Profile Determination	Short Tandem Repeat (STR)	Capillary Electrophoresis
Individual Characteristic Database	DNA Profile	National DNA Index System (NDIS)
Physical Comparison	DNA Profile	Software Program
Qualitative Determination	Body Fluid Epithelial Cell	Chemical General Microscopy Immunoassay

<b>Forensic Discipline: Firearms and Toolmarks</b>		
<b>Component/Parameter</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Key Equipment/Technology</b>
Function Evaluation	Firearm	Dead Weight Force Gauge Measuring Equipment

		Visual
Individual Characteristic Database	Ammunition	National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN)
Physical Comparison	Ammunition	General Microscopy Visual
Qualitative Determination	Ammunition Firearm	General Microscopy Measuring Equipment Reference Collection

<b>Forensic Discipline: Seized Drugs</b>		
<b>Component/Parameter</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Key Equipment/Technology</b>
Qualitative Determination	Botanical Liquid Solid	Chemical Gas Chromatography General Microscopy Infrared Spectroscopy Mass Spectrometry Thin-Layer Chromatography Ultraviolet Spectroscopy Visible Spectroscopy Visual
Weight Measurement	Botanical Liquid Solid	Balance

<b>Forensic Discipline: Toxicology</b>		
<b>Component/Parameter</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Key Equipment/Technology</b>
Qualitative Determination	Anti-Mortem Biological Item Liquid	Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry Immunoassay Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry
Qualitative Determination (Volatiles)	Ante-Mortem Biological Item Liquid	Gas Chromatography
Quantitative Measurement	Anti-Mortem Biological Item Liquid	Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry Immunoassay Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry
Quantitative Measurement (Volatiles)	Anti-Mortem Biological Item Liquid	Gas Chromatography

The term of ANAB accreditation is **10/25/2022 to 12/31/2026**, unless ANAB extends its accreditation as part of a routine renewal process. The term of FSC accreditation is from **10/08/2018** until such time that the accreditation from ANAB is no longer current.

FSC accreditation is contingent upon compliance with Title 37, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 651, including requirements of reporting correspondence, reports or communication between the laboratory and the accrediting body. FSC accreditation will be automatically rescinded at the same date and time as ANAB withdraws your laboratory accreditation.

Sincerely,

*Leigh M. Tomlin*

Leigh M. Tomlin  
FSC Accreditation Program Administrator