



TEXAS FORENSIC
SCIENCE COMMISSION

Justice Through Science

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

February 3, 2023

Ms. Michal Pierce
Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences
1861 Old Spanish Trail
Houston, Texas 77054

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

Dear Ms. Pierce:

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 based on your accreditation by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) and grant full accreditation to the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences for the following forensic disciplines:

Forensic Discipline: Materials (Trace)		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Fire Debris and Explosives (Qualitative Determination)	Fire Debris	Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry
Field Sampling	Physical Item	Not Applicable
Qualitative Determination	Gunshot Residue	Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy Scanning Electron Microscopy

Forensic Discipline: Firearms and Toolmarks		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Distance Determination	Firearm Physical Item	Chemical General Microscopy Measuring Equipment
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 Software Program Visual
Qualitative Determination	Ammunition Firearm Metal Nitrate	Chemical General Microscopy Measuring Equipment Reference Collection

Forensic Discipline: Seized Drugs		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Field Sampling	Physical Item	Not Applicable
Qualitative Determination	Botanical Liquid Solid	Chemical Gas Chromatography General Microscopy Infrared Spectroscopy Mass Spectrometry Ultraviolet Spectroscopy Visible Spectroscopy Visual
Weight Measurement	Botanical Liquid Solid	Balance

Forensic Discipline: Toxicology		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Qualitative Determination	Anti-Mortem Biological Item Liquid Post-Mortem Biological Item	Colorimetry Gas Chromatography Immunoassay Infrared Spectroscopy Ion Specific Electrode Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry Microdiffusion Visible Spectroscopy
Qualitative Determination (Volatiles)	Ante-Mortem Biological Item Liquid Post-Mortem Biological Item	Gas Chromatography
Quantitative Measurement	Anti-Mortem Biological Item	Electrochemical

	Liquid Post-Mortem Biological Item	Gas Chromatography Infrared Spectroscopy Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry Visible Spectroscopy
Quantitative Measurement (Volatiles)	Anti-Mortem Biological Item Liquid	Gas Chromatography

Forensic Discipline: Forensic Biology		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Field Sampling	Physical Item	Not Applicable
DNA Profile Determination	Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Y-Short Tandem Repeat (Y-STR)	Capillary Electrophoresis
Individual Characteristic Database	DNA Profile	National DNA Index System (NDIS)
Physical Comparison	DNA Profile	Software Program
Qualitative Determination	Body Fluid	Chemical General Microscopy Immunoassay

The term of ANAB accreditation is **11/21/2022 to 01/31/2027**, 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
FSC Accreditation Program Administrator