

## Quality Forensics Toxicology Outsourcing Part 17 Deviation from Documented Procedures Form

**Date of Deviation:** 01/11/2023 – 02/14/2023

**Type of Deviation:** Procedural. Quality Forensics Toxicology Outsourcing Part 17

**Describe the Deviation:** Since April of 2021, there has not been a second Toxicologist employed by the BCSO Crime Laboratory. Therefore, there was no analyst available for technical and administrative review of blood drug analysis. The current toxicologist ceased performing analysis, with the exception of urine specimens, after the voluntary withdrawal of Toxicological services from our scope of accreditation effective March 2, 2022. Since accreditation withdrawal, the laboratory has still been accepting biological specimens. We have found an outside laboratory, Quality Forensics Toxicology Laboratory in San Antonio, Texas, willing to test our biological evidence, both unanalyzed and previously analyzed. Our Toxicologist prepares the samples by filling out the Quality Forensics submission form, ensuring there is sufficient sample for analysis, and moving the evidence to the overflow refrigerator. Samples are prepared and shipped via FedEx. Upon completion of analysis, a report is emailed to both the BCSO Crime Laboratory and a contact at the District Attorney's office. Any BCSO Crime Laboratory findings, in conjunction with the final report issued by the outside laboratory, will be available in each case file.

**Reason for Deviation:** The BCSO Crime Laboratory has voluntarily suspended operations and withdrawn our scope of accreditation pertaining to Toxicology, both blood alcohol and blood drug, while we develop new methods. We are still currently accepting biological evidence but not testing at this time. According to the *Texas Administrative Code Title 37 Part 15 Chapter 651 Subchapter A*, accreditation is required of analysis that involves use in a criminal proceeding. Evidence is typically submitted with an offense listed. The BCSO Crime Laboratory could no longer produce reports viable for criminal proceedings.

**Laboratory Number(s) (if applicable):** None of the cases sent in this batch were previously analyzed by the BCSO Crime Laboratory.

The following cases were analyzed for both blood alcohol and blood drug:

BCCL-22-1892                                      BCCL-22-2074

The following cases were analyzed for blood drug only:

BCCL-21-1318                                      BCCL-22-1525                                      BCCL-22-1690

**Brazoria County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory**

  
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Toxicologist

2-14-23

Date

  
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Quality Assurance Manager

21 FEB. 2023

Date

Approval Date: October 26, 2021  
Effective Date: October 26, 2021

Issuing Authority: Upper Management  
Authorized for Distribution by Laboratory Director

Quality Forensics Toxicology Outsourcing Part 17



\_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory Director

14 Feb 2023

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Date