

Quality Forensics Toxicology Outsourcing Part 19 Deviation from Documented Procedures Form

Date of Deviation: 02/21/2023 – 04/06/2023

Type of Deviation: Procedural. Quality Forensics Toxicology Outsourcing Part 19

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. Laboratory staff prepare 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Reason for Deviation: The BCSO Crime Laboratory has voluntarily suspended operations and withdrawn our scope of accreditation pertaining to Toxicology, both blood alcohol and blood drug, while we develop new methods.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-22-1015	BCCL-22-2190	BCCL-23-0141
BCCL-22-1677	BCCL-22-2218	

The following cases were analyzed for blood alcohol only:

BCCL-22-2153	BCCL-23-0141
--------------	--------------

The following case was analyzed for blood drug only:

BCCL-22-1074	BCCL-22-1289	BCCL-23-0103
BCCL-22-1204	BCCL-22-1460	BCCL-23-0116

Quality Forensics Toxicology Outsourcing Part 19

Brazoria County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory

Summer Swain
Evidence Technician

4.6.23
Date

Ann White
Quality Assurance Manager

10 April 2023
Date

Debra Selzer
Laboratory Director

10 April 2023
Date