

Deviation from Documented Procedures Form Texas DPS Crime Laboratory Houston Blood Alcohol Submissions

Dates of Deviation: 03/21/2023 – 04/14/2023

Type of Deviation: DPS Crime Laboratory Blood Alcohol Outsourcing Part 23

Describe the Deviation:

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Crime Laboratory Houston offered to test our blood alcohol samples after the BCSO Crime Laboratory withdrew our scope of accreditation with ANAB. Thirty or less samples are selected at a time. This batch includes 24 samples. Laboratory staff prepare the samples by filling out the DPS Crime Laboratory submission form, ensuring there is sufficient sample for analysis, and moving the evidence to the overflow refrigerator. Investigators from the District Attorney's office are then picking up samples from the laboratory to submit to the DPS Crime Laboratory. Upon completion of analysis, a report is sent to the BCSO Crime Laboratory email and a contact at the District Attorney's office. If there are more cases to be submitted, the cycle repeats and the investigator picks up the previous set of samples, if available, upon submission of the next. A copy of the report from DPS Crime Laboratory Houston, this deviation, and a letter from the BCSO Crime Laboratory Director will be included in every 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The BCSO Crime Laboratory has voluntarily suspended operations and withdrawn our scope of accreditation pertaining to Toxicology, both blood alcohol and blood drug, while we develop new methods.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):

BCCL-22-0493	BCCL-23-0029	BCCL-23-0346
BCCL-22-0690	BCCL-23-0122	BCCL-23-0347
BCCL-22-1958	BCCL-23-0140	BCCL-23-0348
BCCL-22-2017	BCCL-23-0292	BCCL-23-0354
BCCL-22-2116	BCCL-23-0301	BCCL-23-0377
BCCL-22-2151	BCCL-23-0312	BCCL-23-0411
BCCL-22-2203	BCCL-23-0317	BCCL-23-0443
BCCL-22-2212	BCCL-23-0344	BCCL-23-0467

Brazoria County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory

Summer Swango
Evidence Technician

4.18.23
Date

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


Issuing Authority: Upper Management
Authorized for Distribution by Laboratory Director

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DPS Crime Laboratory Blood Alcohol Outsourcing Part 23**



Quality Assurance Manager

18 April 2023
Date



Laboratory Director

18 April 2023
Date