

BO STALLMAN  
SHERIFF



VARON E. SNELGROVE  
CHIEF DEPUTY

## BRAZORIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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March 7, 2022

On Friday, February 25, the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Crime Laboratory voluntarily suspended operations in its Toxicology division. This notification was sent to the Laboratory's accreditation body – ANAB (ANSI National Accreditation Board) which sanctions services in the Laboratory. The reduction of toxicology testing is expected to last until later this year. During this time period, the Laboratory will continue to receive blood evidence from area agencies. However, that evidence will not be analyzed by the Laboratory. We apologize for this disruption of services. The break from testing blood evidence will allow the Laboratory to validate new equipment and methodology that will enhance its toxicological services.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Crime Laboratory Houston has graciously offered to test any blood alcohol samples submitted to this Laboratory. Blood samples submitted to this Laboratory will be transported to the DPS Laboratory for alcohol testing only. The BCSO is engaged in discussions with other Laboratories to facilitate blood drug analysis on any samples in need.

In summary, the BCSO Crime Laboratory has voluntarily suspended its blood alcohol and blood drug analyzes. During this suspension of services, blood samples submitted by area law enforcement agencies in need of blood alcohol determinations will be tested by the Texas DPS Laboratory in Houston. This processing of blood samples for ethanol determination will not include drug analysis. The BCSO is working on other avenues for the submissions of samples for blood drug analysis. Once those details are nailed down, area agencies will be notified of that process. Any additional information relating to the submission and testing of toxicological evidence may be directed to the Laboratory. The BCSO Crime Laboratory direct line is 979.864.2250. All seized drug submissions and testing will continue to be handled by the BCSO Crime Laboratory.

Again, the Department apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause to your agency. Your continued patience will allow the BCSO Crime Laboratory to implement new equipment and methodology that will solidify the quality of toxicological analysis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Derek Sanders".

Derek Sanders,  
Crime Laboratory Director