

## Quality Forensics Toxicology Outsourcing Part 32 Deviation from Documented Procedures Form

**Date of Deviation:** 01/24/2024 – 02/23/2024

**Type of Deviation:** Procedural. Quality Forensics Toxicology Outsourcing Part 32

**Describe the Deviation:** BCSO Crime Laboratory 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. BCSO Crime Laboratory regained accreditation in blood alcohol analysis only in January 2024. We will continue to use an outside laboratory, Quality Forensics Toxicology Laboratory in San Antonio, Texas, for evidence needing both blood alcohol and blood drug analyses or blood drug analysis only. Quality Forensics is 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. Submission forms are usually sent with the samples. 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 voluntarily suspended operations and withdrew our scope of accreditation pertaining to Toxicology, both blood alcohol and blood drug, while we develop new methods. We have since regained accreditation and are performing blood alcohol analysis. We are still currently accepting biological evidence but not performing blood drug analysis 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 is still unable to produce reports viable for criminal proceedings pertaining to blood drug.

**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-22-2211	BCCL-24-0002
BCCL-23-1164	BCCL-24-0039

The following cases were analyzed for blood alcohol only:

BCCL-23-1033	BCCL-23-2065	BCCL-24-0040
BCCL-23-1951	BCCL-23-2118	

The following cases were analyzed for blood drug only:

BCCL-23-2061	BCCL-23-2074
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### Quality Forensics Toxicology Outsourcing Part 32

Brazoria County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory

Summer Wilgo  
Evidence Technician

2.27.24  
Date

Melina Henry  
Toxicologist

2/27/2024  
Date

Karla M. Baylitz  
Toxicologist

2/28/2024  
Date

Alex Winton  
Quality Assurance Manager

28 Feb 2024  
Date

Debra Seal  
Laboratory Director

28 Feb 2024  
Date