

Deviation from Documented Procedures Form

Date of Deviation: 03/14/2024 – 04/05/2024

Type of Deviation: Procedural. Quality Forensics Toxicology Outsourcing Part 34

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 blood drug analysis. 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):

The following cases were analyzed for blood alcohol by the BCSO Crime Laboratory and outsourced for blood drug analysis:

BCCL-23-1198

BCCL-24-0259

BCCL-24-0313

BCCL-23-1435

BCCL-24-0276

BCCL-24-0321

Brazoria County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory

Summer Swargo
Evidence Technician

5.1.2024
Date

Kayla M. Baylor
Toxicologist

5/1/2024
Date

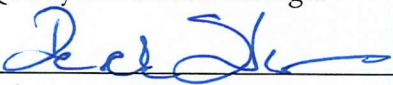
Melina Henry
Toxicologist

5/1/2024
Date

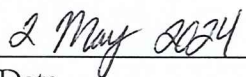
Quality Forensics Toxicology Outsourcing Part 34



Quality Assurance Manager



Laboratory Director



Date



Date