



# HFSC's CSU achieves international accreditation standards for first time

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Houston Forensic Science Center's Crime Scene Unit has been awarded international accreditation for the first time, helping to ensure objective, scientific investigation at homicides, officer-involved shootings and other high-profile incidents.

CSU has met the ISO 17025 standards and is the last of HFSC's seven disciplines to be awarded that four-year accreditation. The assessment team found no issues to correct during its review of CSU.

All HFSC disciplines are fully reassessed every four years. The remaining disciplines have also been reaccredited.

"Having an accredited, civilian Crime Scene Unit in Houston is an enormous achievement that helps improve the justice system as a whole," said Jerry Pena, director of HFSC's Crime Scene Unit and Multimedia Forensic Evidence.

"Scientific, objective evidence collection and investigation at crime scenes is crucial for evidence preservation and for helping to ensure subsequent forensic analysis is of good quality," Pena added.

HFSC's CSU responds to all homicides and officer-involved shootings in the City of Houston. The unit also assists at some sexual assault scenes and high-profile aggravated assaults.

“These folks are out there day and night, in the heat and the cold, seeing the results of some of Houston’s most harrowing crimes,” said Dr. Peter Stout, HFSC’s CEO and president.

“Achieving accreditation is a testament to the quality work they do daily. Accreditation is one of many tools that we have in place to help ensure the high standards to which we hold our staff,” he added.

HFSC is a local government corporation that provides forensic services to the City of Houston and other local agencies. HFSC is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed by the Mayor of Houston and confirmed by the Houston City Council. Its management structure is designed to be responsive to a 2009 recommendation by the National Academy of Sciences that called for crime laboratories to be independent of law enforcement and prosecutorial branches of government.

HFSC operates in seven forensic disciplines.

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