



HFSC's Latent Print Section Fully Certified

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Houston Forensic Science Center's 14 latent print examiners are now all fully certified by the International Association for Identification (IAI). The IAI, one of the oldest forensic professional organizations, is also the only one to certify latent print examiners. To become certified, the examiners must have at least two years of professional experience in the forensic discipline and pass a rigorous, timed, three-part test.

"Having all our examiners certified by the IAI helps increase the quality and standard of the work we do," said Timothy Schmahl, manager of HFSC's Latent Print Section. "It is a hefty task to pass the IAI's certification exam and a crowning achievement in an examiner's career. Having all of our examiners pass the IAI's exam is an example of HFSC's high standards and of our examiners' dedication and professionalism."

HFSC is one of the largest forensic institutions in Texas to have all its latent print examiners certified. The Center's Latent Print Section also recently became accredited to international standards, making it one of the few in the country to achieve ISO 17025 accreditation.

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 currently operates in nine forensic disciplines.

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