



# HFSC's Digital Multimedia Evidence Section Achieves Accreditation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The two disciplines that comprise the Houston Forensic Science Center's Digital Multimedia Evidence Section have been accredited by ANAB to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. The section is primarily responsible for examining and preserving multimedia evidence from crime scenes, including cell phones, laptops and security camera video.

In order to achieve this level of international accreditation, the section had to write standard operating procedures, validate instruments and software and demonstrate they could accurately and proficiently carry out casework.

"Meeting international standards of accreditation provides our digital and audio/video examiners with established, consistent, quality procedures for their work," said Dr. Peter Stout, the Center's COO and vice president.

These forensic fields are not required to be accredited under Texas or federal law. However, HFSC is working to have all its forensic disciplines accredited to international standards.

HFSC is now working toward international accreditation for its Crime Scene Unit, the Center's only discipline that has not yet been accredited by ANAB.

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 has eight forensic sections.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Ramit Plushnick-Masti

Public Information Officer/Director of Communications

[media@houstonforensicscience.org](mailto:media@houstonforensicscience.org)

<http://www.houstonforensicscience.org/>

713-929-6768

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