



HFSC's New Trace Evidence Section Achieves International Accreditation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Houston Forensic Science Center's new Trace Evidence Section has been accredited by ANAB to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. In order to achieve this level of international accreditation, the newly formed section had to write standard operating procedures, validate instruments and demonstrate they could accurately and proficiently carry out casework.

According to Texas law, the section must also be accredited by the Texas Forensic Science Commission before it can do casework and testify to their findings in court. That final step has also been completed.

HFSC's Trace Evidence Section will focus initially on providing scientific fire analysis that can assist in arson investigations. The corporation has identified a demand for this service in the Houston community. Offering this service is also responsive to a report issued by Michael Bromwich, who suggested a full service forensic laboratory must offer trace evidence analysis.

Trace Evidence is the sixth HFSC discipline to achieve ISO accreditation. HFSC is working toward achieving accreditation for all its section by the end of 2016.

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 eight forensic disciplines.

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