



San Diego County Sheriff's Department



William D. Gore, Sheriff

Kelly A. Martinez
Undersheriff

November 1, 2021

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department Regional Crime Laboratory's (Crime Lab) vision is "Excellence in Forensic Science." To ensure excellence and consistently improve in its operations, methodology, technology and training, the Crime Lab rigorously adheres to quality system management and standards. The Crime Lab has evolved in its operations and has formally complied with industry standards for more than 18 years, receiving its first accreditation in 2003 by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors-Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD-LAB).

As with any profession, forensic science is no exception in the expectations to continuously evolve and improve our methods, skill, and instrumentation. The laboratory has driven change with best practice and has undergone regular accreditation assessments by external technical experts, updating standards in all areas of forensic testing and management.

Initial accreditation was received from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors-Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD-LAB), which was acquired by ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) in 2016. Since being acquired by ANAB the Crime Lab has adopted the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)17025: 2017 Standards for Testing and Calibration Laboratories. The Crime Lab has additionally been assessed by the FBI under their Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) for Forensic Biology/DNA as well as the Office of Inspector General and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for the maintenance of the Crime Lab's CODIS and NIBIN/IBIS databases.

The intention of a proactive quality management system is encouraging continuous improvement. As standards change and practices evolve, assessment and reassessment are critical. The goal of best practice and standard compliance are to assess gaps and provide the highest quality forensic results. This is how we achieve "Excellence in Forensic Science."

To promote transparency in our quality management process, the Crime Lab is publishing all accreditation reports and resolutions. The importance of reviewing the reports within context is vital.

The Crime Lab is dedicated to the review of its operations, process, methodology, and training, as well as its management systems and ability to correct concerns. Findings, as published, often relate to a very specific instrument, process, policy, or section, and should not be applied to the Crime Lab as a whole. Additionally, findings must be considered with the corrective steps, evaluations, and resolutions taken by the laboratory to effectively implement change.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department's Regional Crime Laboratory is committed to continuous improvement; evolvement of process, methodology, policy, and technology; and supporting our technical teams in growing their expertise and ensuring quality case outcomes. This is best accomplished with a rigorous quality management process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William D. Gore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "W" and "G".

William D. Gore, Sheriff

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