



Media Contact:

Tricia Rudisill Bentley | PIO@ifs.hctx.net
Desk: 832-927-5215 | Cell: 832-309-3868

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harris County Crime Laboratory Now Provides Automotive Paint Analysis *New Service is fully accredited to ISO 17025*

HOUSTON, Texas (Nov. 16, 2017) – The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (HCIFS) now provides automotive paint analysis services to its submitting law enforcement agencies, which includes the Harris County Sheriff's Office. The new service is fully accredited, and the laboratory began accepting automotive paint evidence on November 1, 2017.

"The ability to analyze paint evidence located at the scene is a critical tool in combating hit-and-run crimes," said Capt. Whitaker, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Vehicular Crimes Division.

The HCIFS Trace Evidence Laboratory will focus its efforts on vehicular manslaughter/homicide cases where automotive paint analysis can be used to identify the physical and chemical composition of paint evidence from the scene.

Paint chips found at a scene or on a victim can be analyzed and compared to samples taken from a suspected vehicle. HCIFS will also use the Paint Data Query (PDQ) database, which contains paint information of the make, model, year, and assembly plant of many vehicles, to lead investigators to suspected vehicles.

"The Harris County Sheriff's Office asked our laboratory to provide this service," said William M. Davis, Ph.D., HCIFS director of physical evidence. "We developed and validated new methods, and we are proud to begin offering sophisticated testing of vehicle paints."

The new automotive paint analysis service is accredited by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) to the ISO 17025 standard and by the Texas Forensic Science Commission. HCIFS maintains seven [accreditations](#), some for as long as 10 years, spanning both the Medical Examiner and the Crime Laboratory services.

About the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences:

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, an independent, science-based organization, provides two distinct forensic services for the Harris County community – the Medical Examiner Service and the Crime Laboratory Service.

The Institute is a member institution of the Texas Medical Center® and is accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners, the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board-*International*, the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, the Texas Forensic Science Commission, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, and the Texas Medical Association for the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. To learn more, visit: ifs.harriscountytexas.gov.

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