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**In January 2022, the Institute was granted NAME re-accreditation for four years.**

Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (HCIFS) has maintained continuous NAME accreditation since June 2006. In January 2022, the Institute was granted re-accreditation for four years.

“The best objective measure of scientific validity in death investigation is the NAME accreditation,” says Luis A. Sanchez, MD, Executive Director and Chief Medical Examiner for HCIFS since 2003. “Our successful completion of the re-accreditation demonstrates outstanding performance by our staff. They personify the Institute’s mission to provide medical examiner and crime laboratory services of the highest quality in an unbiased manner with uncompromised integrity.”

During the 2021 re-accreditation process, Dr. Barbara Wolf, Chair of the NAME Inspection and Accreditation Committee, conducted an on-site visit to audit operations, protocols, and case records against 350 established standards. She also interviewed a selection of stakeholders from the law enforcement, attorney, and public health communities. In her report, Dr. Wolf concluded that HCIFS meets the accreditation standards.

She added, “The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences functions at a superior professional level in all phases of its operations...This Institute as a whole is a stellar example of a modern and professional medicolegal death investigation system in a large city.”

Michal Pierce, MS, HCIFS Senior Director, Quality Management says, “The Institute continuously improves the quality of practices and facilities to maintain accreditation with seven organizations that span both the Medical Examiner and Crime Laboratory Services plus an ISO 9001:2015 quality management standard.” [[Accreditations \(harriscountytx.gov\)](https://www.harriscountytx.gov/accr/accrations)]

HCIFS is dedicated to serving the needs of the Harris County community and its justice system.