



March 9, 2010  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### Harris County Medical Examiner's Office Has a New Name *Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences*

I am pleased to announce that the Harris County Commissioners Court has approved changing the name of the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office to the **Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences** effective March 9, 2010. The name change reflects our commitment to provide the highest level of service to the community, including contributions to academia, based on the latest advances in the field of forensic sciences. Over the past seven years, this office has evolved into two fully accredited services: (1) the *Forensic Pathology Service*, which coordinates investigations and provides a wide array of forensic services including pathology, anthropology, neuropathology, forensic imaging, postmortem toxicology, histology and morgue services; and (2) the *Crime Laboratory Service*, which encompasses the four distinct forensic disciplines of controlled substances, forensic toxicology, trace evidence (gunshot residue and fire debris analysis), and biology (serology/DNA).

The new name also highlights the dynamic academic environment we have cultivated as a member institution of the Texas Medical Center. It is our dual commitment to service and academia that guarantees that our practice is both cutting edge and grounded in unbiased science. We are grateful for the trust that the County Government and the citizens of Harris County have placed in us over the past several years, and we look forward to honoring that trust with a continued commitment to excellence as the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

Luis A. Sanchez, M.D.  
Chief Medical Examiner