



ORANGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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Orange County Crime Laboratory recognized for implementing national forensic standards

SANTA ANA, Ca. (January 19, 2022): The Orange County Crime Laboratory, a division of the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department, was nationally recognized as a "Registry Implementer" for its high-quality standards and practices in forensic science by the National Institutes of Science and Technology-sponsored Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC).

OSAC recognizes crime labs that meet rigorous standards as defined in their Registry. The Registry is a repository of technically sound standards and best practices for forensic laboratories, and covers a broad spectrum of forensic disciplines including DNA, Toxicology and Digital Evidence.

According to OSAC, these standards can "improve consistency across forensic science disciplines, ensure confidence in the accuracy, reliability, and reproducibility of laboratory results, and positively increase the impact of admissibility and expert testimony in courts of law."

The Crime Lab is one of 70 labs across the nation recognized as a "Registry Implementer" for adopting standards as outlined by OSAC.

"The OSAC standards process is critically important for the national forensic community, and this collaborative approach involved a significant amount of work by our personnel over the last few years," said Bruce Houlihan, Director of the Crime Lab. "As a laboratory with many diverse disciplines and services, our goal was to implement all Registry standards applicable to these disciplines."

Implementation of the OSAC standards involved building on the lab's current accreditations with the American National Standards Institute National Accreditation Board (ANAB) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

"Our personnel worked hard to meet OSAC's standards while maintaining high quality and productivity," Houlihan said. "Applying sound scientific principles to the collection, evaluation and interpretation of physical evidence is the core of our mission, and we remain committed to providing excellent service to the residents of Orange County."

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