



Maine State Police Crime Laboratory

Testimony Review

1. Scope

One of the main goals of the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory is to provide court testimony that is well documented, relevant and clearly presented to the court. In an effort to ensure that our goal is met, the laboratory requires that testimony in each discipline be reviewed at least once per calendar year.

2. Review

- 2.1 A technical review of testimony of scientific staff shall be completed for the first testimony after authorization to perform casework in a discipline and subsequently, a minimum of once per 4-year accreditation cycle.
- 2.2 A technical review of testimony from each discipline shall be completed at least once per calendar year.
- 2.3 Technical review of testimony shall be performed by the technical leader of the discipline or an analyst that is authorized to perform casework in the applicable discipline.
- 2.4 Technical review of testimony may be performed through witnessing of the testimony or review of court transcripts. At a minimum, the review shall ensure:
 - Results, opinions and interpretations are accurate, properly qualified and supported by the technical record
 - Conformance with test methods and applicable policies and procedures
- 2.4 Testimony review will be documented by completing the Expert Testimony Technical Review Form (QA-F024) and tracked by the Quality Manager via Paradigm.
- 2.5 Examiners are responsible for completing a Testimony Review item in the Improvements module in Paradigm. The information should include:
 - Date of testimony
 - Laboratory Number
 - County
 - Defendant's name
 - Prosecuting Attorney
 - Defense Attorney, if known
 - Primary investigator
- 2.6 The Quality Manager will disseminate the Testimony Technical Review Form to the appropriate party.



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- 2.7 Testimony Technical Review Forms should be returned directly to the Quality Manager.
- 2.8 The Quality Manager will review the Testimony Technical Review Form and distribute to the appropriate Section Supervisor via Paradigm.
- 2.9 The Section Supervisor will be responsible for reviewing the Testimony Technical Review Form and addressing any concerns with the examiner.
- 2.10 The Section Supervisor will submit the Testimony Technical Review Form to the examiner for review via Paradigm.
- 2.11 In addition to the technical review of testimony, the Quality Manager or Director may choose to speak directly to court officers, including attorneys or judges, regarding laboratory staff testimony. Court officers may also be asked to complete the Expert Testimony Review Form (QA-F005).
- 2.12 Actions for an unsatisfactory review will be determined by the Quality Manager, Director and Section Supervisor.