

**Resolution 07-0422-01 by the ASCLD Board of Directors
April 22, 2007**

Accreditation in Forensic Science

Whereas: ASCLD is an authoritative body with unparalleled standing and expertise in matters pertaining to the administration of forensic science.

Whereas: The ASCLD board of directors is elected, in part, to make strategic decisions that advance the professions of forensic science and forensic science management.

Whereas: The demonstration of conformance to generally accepted professional and scientific standards is necessary to earn the full confidence of the public and the criminal justice system.

Whereas: ASCLD created ASCLD/LAB as a strategic partner to provide crime laboratories with the opportunity to demonstrate conformance to the most current and comprehensive standards that exist for the practice and administration of forensic science.

Therefore: **The following is resolved by ASCLD through its duly elected Board of Directors:**

The most effective way for a crime laboratory to demonstrate conformance to applicable standards is to subject itself to the scrutiny of a formal accreditation program that is administered by experienced forensic science professionals.

The considerable progress that forensic science has made through crime laboratory accreditation has validated the ability of the profession to engage in critical self-analysis in a way that ensures continual improvement, reasonable transparency, and strict accountability.

ASCLD shall continue its longstanding support of crime laboratory accreditation administered and governed by professionals from within the crime laboratory management community.

While recognizing the right of laboratories to select a program of accreditation that meets their needs, ASCLD shall continue its longstanding strategic partnership with ASCLD/LAB.

ASCLD recognizes forensic science accreditation as a qualification-based professional service whose procurement depends on several critical considerations that are of vital importance to the criminal justice system. Among these considerations are:

- The perceived ability of the provider to conduct a thorough, fair, and efficient assessment of a crime laboratory's operations.
- The reputation and standing of the provider in the forensic science community.
- The qualifications and reputation of the provider's assessors and governors.
- The existence of procedures and policies that protect the rights of the applicant laboratory and its customers.

ASCLD recognizes forensic science accreditation as having a significant and direct impact on the safety and well-being of the public.