



Dear Member Organizations,

December 14, 2021

The American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) has decided to implement some changes to the process of obtaining members for the Examination Committee (EC). To continue the goal of providing the best certification(s) forensic practitioners may obtain, the ABC will be converting the EC to be a standalone committee that does not have its committee members appointed by the ABC Member Organizations. The Member Directors appointed to the ABC Board of Directors (BOD) will still collectively oversee the Exam Committee and direct their function. Furthermore, to facilitate the flow of information from the EC, an At-large Member Director will still act as an EC liaison to the BOD.

This change allows improvement in a number of ways. The average time a committee member is on the EC is less than the five-year review cycle that is conducted for every exam. It is the intent of the EC to find committee members who stay longer, which would improve efficiency in the exam review process. Currently, there is a need to increase the number of people on the committee. Having the committee be a standalone committee will allow them to increase or decrease committee members as needs arise, and there would be no term limits imposed. Furthermore, having the ability to seek out specific subject matter experts (SMEs) to sit on the committee greatly increases the EC's effectiveness. This change will also allow the committee to increase the diversity of its members.

In the past 18 months, the EC has determined they can conduct their business via remote meetings (Zoom) and emails. Additionally, the EC believes they can forgo an annual in-person meeting. This does not preclude an in-person meeting, but the goal would be to eliminate this annual expense. This would be a substantial cost saving measure for the ABC and its Member Organizations.

If you have any concerns regarding this change, please discuss them with your Member Director. The ABC appreciates your dedication to maintaining the highest standards for certification and sponsoring Member Directors.

Sincerely,
David Koppenhaver,
At-large Member Director (MAFS), EC Liaison