



SOFT/ABFT

Toxicology is the study of the adverse effects of drugs and chemicals on biological systems.

Forensic toxicology deals with the application of toxicology to cases and issues where those adverse effects have administrative or medicolegal consequences, and where the results are likely to be used in court.

Forensic toxicology is a modern science, based on published and widely accepted scientific methods and practices, for both analysis of drugs in biological materials, and interpretation of those results.

SOFT

The Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc. [SOFT] is a not-for profit professional organization composed of practicing forensic toxicologists and those interested in the discipline for the purpose of promoting and developing forensic toxicology. It had its beginnings in 1970 as an informal group of practitioners, which in 1974 formalized as a professional body. Through its annual meetings, the Society provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among toxicology professionals in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

S.O.F.T. sponsored programs such as workshops, newsletters, and S.O.F.T. sponsored technical publications constantly improve the forensic toxicologists' skills and knowledge. The Society fosters friendship and cooperation among toxicologists and advocates a high level of professionalism through certification and accreditation programs.

ABFT

The need to identify qualified forensic scientists who can provide essential professional services for the nation's judicial and executive branches of government has long been recognized. In response to the professional need, the American Board of Forensic Toxicology was organized in 1975 to provide, in the interest of the public and the advancement of the sciences, a certification program in forensic toxicology. In purpose, function, and organization, the ABFT is analogous to the certifying board in the various medical specialties and scientific fields. In addition to certifying practitioners, ABFT has a laboratory accreditation program as well.

Certification of Forensic Toxicologists

The objectives of the Board are to establish, enhance, and revise as necessary the standards of qualification for those who practice forensic toxicology and to certify as qualified scientists those voluntary applicants who comply with the requirements of the Board. In this way, the Board aims to establish a practical and equitable system of readily identifying those who possess the requisite qualifications and competence in forensic toxicology.

Certification is based upon the candidate's personal and professional record of education and training, experience, achievement, and a formal written examination.

The ABFT is recognized by CMS for the credentialing of a laboratory director of high complexity testing in accordance with 42 CFR 493.1443(b)(3)(i). This is limited to individuals with a doctoral degree in a chemical, physical, biological or clinical laboratory science.

Laboratory Accreditation

The objective of the Board are to establish, enhance, and maintain standards of qualification for those laboratories that practice Postmortem Forensic Toxicology or Human Performance Toxicology and to accredit as qualified laboratories those applicants who comply with the requirements of the Board. In this way, the Board aims to establish a practical and equitable system of readily identifying laboratories that have demonstrated the requisite qualifications and competence in forensic toxicology.

Laboratory Accreditation is based upon compliance with professional standards as assessed by peer review, including an onsite inspection and successful achievement in proficiency testing programs as required by the Board.



www.abft.org
www.soft-tox.org

