U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

FY 2024 Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program

Certification as to External Investigations

On behalf of the applicant agency named below, I certify the following to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice:

A government entity exists and an appropriate process is in place to conduct independent external investigations into allegations of serious negligence or misconduct substantially affecting the integrity of the forensic results committed by employees or contractors of any forensic laboratory system, medical examiner's office, coroner's office, law enforcement storage facility, or medical facility in the State that will receive a portion of the grant amount.

I personally read and reviewed the section entitled "Eligibility" in the Fiscal Year 2024 program solicitation for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program. I acknowledge that a false statement in this certification or in the grant application that it supports may be the subject of criminal prosecution, including under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and/or 1621 and/or 34 U.S.C. §§ 10271-10273. I also acknowledge that Office of Justice Programs grants, including certifications provided in connection with such grants, are subject to review by the Office of Justice Programs and/or by the Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General.

I have authority to make this certification on behalf of the applicant agency (that is, the agency applying directly to the Bureau of Justice Assistance).

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Signature of Certifying Official
Barry Burton
Printed Name of Certifying Official
County Administrator
Title of Certifying Official
Pinellas County (FL) dba Board of County Commissioners
Name of Applicant Agency
(Including Name of State)
June 5, 2024
Date

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