

Division Leadership

Tommy Ward

Director of Special Investigations

Marshall Davidson

Regional Director for regions 1, 2, 9, and 10

Sam Foster

Regional Director for regions 3E, 4, and 5

Greg Eakens

Regional Director for regions 3W and 7

Jay Borton

Regional Director for regions 6A and 6B

Rob Vela

Regional Director for regions 8 and 11



DFPS Regions

Special Investigations Division

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Program Directors

Contact information

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Special Investigations Division



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Our agency mission

We promote safe and healthy families and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Special Investigators are an important part of our agency who work as a team to protect children, including children whose cases are high-profile or high-risk. They have a specialized set of skills in order to do their job.

A Special Investigator job is very challenging and can be stressful at times – but there are few jobs that offer more opportunities to learn new things about families, your community, and yourself.

What we do

A Special Investigator is a DFPS staff member with a law enforcement background and experience in criminal investigations.

Special investigators offer advice on high-profile or high-risk cases that may require joint investigation with law enforcement.

Special investigator duties may include:

- Helping with complex investigations.
- Using forensic investigation techniques.
- School investigations.
- Assisting with human trafficking investigations.
- Responding to drug-endangered children cases.



- Acting as department liaisons to local law enforcement agencies.
- Searching for missing families and children in foster care using databases and other resources.
- Submitting requests to the Department of Public Safety to place a missing family on the Child Safety Check Alert List.



- Mentoring DFPS investigators and caseworkers, and training them on child abuse issues.
- Participating on local boards and multi-disciplinary teams.



Qualifications

Required:

- Graduation from an accredited high school or equivalent.
- Five years as a Peace Officer with two years as a Detective/Investigator assigned to property crimes and or crimes against persons.
- TCOLE Intermediate License, Out of state Peace Officer license, or Military experience comparable to Texas Peace Officer.
- Experience involving the use of forensic investigation skills is a must. Some training certifications may be substituted for two years of experience as a Detective/Investigator.

Preferred:

- TCOLE Advance or Master Peace Officer License or equivalent from an out of state law enforcement agency or the United States Military.
- Two years' experience as a Detective/Investigator investigating and working with multidisciplinary teams on the investigation of child abuse and neglect or other crimes against persons.
- Sixty hours college credit from an accredited college or university.



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