

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 07-18

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor CHARLIE CRIST that Ernest Balkman has been arrested for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and aggravated battery, violations of the criminals laws of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, has advised the Governor that the victim is an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest or impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified herself and has requested the executive assignment of another State Attorney with respect to the investigation and potential prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BARRY E. KRISCHER, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has agreed to accept an executive assignment in this matter; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable BARRY E. KRISCHER be assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, pursuant to Section 27.14, Florida Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHARLIE CRIST, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my solemn constitutional duty to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed," and pursuant to the

Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue the following Executive Order effective immediately:

Section 1.

The Honorable BARRY E. KRISCHER, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, potential prosecution and all matters related to Ernest Balkman.

Section 2.

The Assigned State Attorney or one or more Assistant State Attorneys and Investigators, which have been designated by the Assigned State Attorney, shall proceed immediately to the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are vested with the authority to perform the duties prescribed above.

Section 3.

All residents of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4.

The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including January 31, 2008.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before December 31, 2007,
if additional time is required.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the
State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the
Capitol, this 31st day of January, 2007.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE