

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 11-242

WHEREAS, the Honorable MICHAEL F. MCAULIFFE, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that John Francis Thome, III has been charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (domestic) and grand theft (domestic violence); and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MICHAEL F. MCAULIFFE has also advised the Governor that John Francis Thome, III is the live-in boyfriend of an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MICHAEL F. MCAULIFFE, to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest or impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified himself 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 BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth 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 BRUCE H. COLTON discharge the duties of the Honorable MICHAEL F. MCAULIFFE, pursuant to Section 27.14, Florida Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, 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 BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable MICHAEL F. MCAULIFFE, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to investigation and prosecution and all matters related to John Francis Thome, III.

Section 2.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Fifteenth 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 December 6, 2012.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before November 6, 2012, 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, this 6th day of December, 2011.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis", is written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Atwater", is written over the printed text "SECRETARY OF STATE".

SECRETARY OF STATE

2011 DEC -6 PM 1:53  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED