

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 12-123

WHEREAS, the Honorable EARL MORELAND, State Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Joseph Mark Meiners has been arrested for driving under the influence third offense in 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable EARL MORELAND has also advised the Governor that Joseph Mark Meiners is related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable EARL MORELAND, 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 MARK A. OBER, State Attorney for the Thirteenth 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 MARK A. OBER discharge the duties of the Honorable EARL MORELAND, 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 MARK A. OBER, State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable EARL MORELAND, State Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, potential prosecution and all matters related to Joseph Mark Meiners.

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 Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are vested with the authority to perform the duties prescribed herein.

Section 3.

All residents of the Twelfth 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 June 1, 2013.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before May 1, 2013, 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 1st day of June, 2012.



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 'Ken Retzner', is written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA