

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 12-97

WHEREAS, the Honorable PETER ANTONACCI, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Robert James Besse has been charged with burglary of an occupied dwelling; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable PETER ANTONACCI has also advised the Governor Robert James Besse is the father of a minor child and the child's mother is employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable PETER ANTONACCI, 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 prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, State Attorney for the Twentieth 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 STEPHEN B. RUSSELL discharge the duties of the Honorable PETER ANTONACCI, 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, do hereby issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1.

The Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, hereinafter referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is hereby assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable PETER ANTONACCI, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution and all matters related to Robert James Besse.

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

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, to the end that justice may be served.

Section 4.

The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including April 24, 2013.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before March 24, 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 24th day of April, 2012.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ron DeSantis', written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ken Retzner', written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA