

STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 14-58
(Executive Order of Suspension)

WHEREAS, Carolyn Ann Knowles, is presently serving as a Notary Public of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on or about July 5, 2012, Carolyn Ann Knowles was convicted in the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, in and for Orange County, in case number 2012CF006169, of one count of Grand Theft (more than \$10,000, less than \$20,000), a third-degree felony in violation of Section 812.014(2)(c)3., Florida Statutes, and one count of Obtaining Unemployment Compensation by Fraud, a third-degree felony in violation of Section 443.071(1), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Carolyn Ann Knowles failed to notify the Department of State of the above-stated changes to her criminal history record during her commission as a Florida notary public, as required by Section 117.01(2); and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2014, this Office notified Carolyn Ann Knowles by certified mail, and required that she respond to the investigation by this Office of the felony convictions that occurred while commissioned as a Florida notary public; and

WHEREAS, to date, this Office has not received the required response from Carolyn Ann Knowles; and

WHEREAS, the Governor is authorized by Article IV, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution to suspend from office by executive order an appointed public official for the commission of a felony; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of the State of Florida that Carolyn Ann Knowles be immediately suspended from the public office, which she now holds, upon the grounds set forth in this Executive Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, Governor of Florida, pursuant to Article IV, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution and Section 117.01(4), Florida Statutes, find and state as follows:

- A. Carolyn Ann Knowles is a duly appointed Notary Public of the State of Florida, pursuant to Section 117.01, Florida Statutes.
- B. Carolyn Ann Knowles is commissioned as a Florida notary public from April 23, 2012, through April 22, 2016.
- C. Carolyn Ann Knowles was convicted of two felonies in Orange County in 2012, while commissioned as a Florida notary public.
- D. Carolyn Ann Knowles failed to notify the Department of State of the changes to her criminal history record following her felony convictions in Orange County in 2012, as required by Section 117.01(2), Florida Statutes.
- E. Carolyn Ann Knowles refused to cooperate or respond to an investigation of notary misconduct by the Executive Office of the Governor, as required by Section 117.01(4)(c), Florida Statutes.

BEING FULLY ADVISED in the premise, and in accordance with the Florida Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida, this Executive Order is issued:

Section 1. Carolyn Ann Knowles is suspended from the public office which she now holds: Notary Public of the State of Florida.

Section 2. Carolyn Ann Knowles is prohibited from performing any official act, duty, or function of this public office; from receiving any pay or allowance; and from being entitled to any of the emoluments or privileges of this public office during the period of suspension, which shall begin today until further Executive Order is issued, or as otherwise provided by law.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 12th day of February, 2014.

RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA