

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 14-182

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Jennifer Heard is under investigation, in Martin County, for filing a false report regarding abuse of her son by his father. The abuse allegedly occurred in Palm Beach and there has been an subsequent investigation made by the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRUCE H. COLTON has also advised the Governor that Jennifer Heard is a former Martin County Sheriff's deputy and has filed a civil suit against his office regarding an unrelated investigation, which is currently pending; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRUCE H. COLTON, to avoid a conflict of interest or any appearance of 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 DAVID A. ARONBERG, 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 DAVID A. ARONBERG discharge the duties of the Honorable BRUCE H. COLTON, 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 DAVID A. ARONBERG, 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 BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution and all matters related to Jennifer Heard.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Nineteenth 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 May 30, 2015.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before April 30, 2015,
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 30th day of May, 2014.



RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2014 MAY 30 PM 2:49
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA