

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 14-301

WHEREAS, the Honorable GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Christopher Robert Smith is under investigation, in Bay County, for corruption by threat against a public official and tampering with a witness, victim or informant; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable GLENN HESS has also advised the Governor that the Christopher Robert Smith is related to an employee with the Panama City Police Department with which the state attorney's office has a close working relationship; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable GLENN HESS, 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 WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First 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 WILLIAM EDDINS discharge the duties of the Honorable GLENN HESS, 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 WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution and all matters related to Christopher Robert Smith.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Fourteenth 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 November 20, 2015.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before October 20, 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 20th day of November, 2014.



RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

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SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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