

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 16-35

WHEREAS, the Honorable DAVID A. ARONBERG, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Elizabeth C. Ramsey has been charged with contempt of court; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DAVID A. ARONBERG has also advised the Governor that Elizabeth C. Ramsey is a current assistant public defender in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. In addition, an employee of the state attorney's office is a potential witness in the case; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DAVID A. ARONBERG, 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 BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has agreed to accept an executive assignment in this matter; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable BRUCE H. COLTON discharge the duties of the Honorable DAVID A. ARONBERG, 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 BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable DAVID A. ARONBERG, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Elizabeth C. Ramsey.

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 Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are 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, so that justice may be served.

Section 4.

The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including February 9, 2017.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before January 9, 2017,  
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 9th day of February, 2016.

A blue ink signature of Rick Scott, written in a cursive style.

\_\_\_\_\_  
RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Ken Ritzman, written in a cursive style.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY OF STATE

2016 FEB -9 AM 10:32  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED