

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 17-299

WHEREAS, the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Sawyer Smith was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon-unlicensed firearm; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL has also advised the Governor that Sawyer Smith is a local attorney, and he and members of his family have a personal friendship with employees of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, 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 ED BRODSKY, State Attorney for the Twelfth 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 ED BRODSKY discharge the duties of the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, 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 ED BRODSKY, State Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable STEPHEN B. RUSSELL, State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Sawyer 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 Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are vested with the authority to perform the duties prescribed herein.

Section 3.

All residents of the Twentieth 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 21, 2018.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before October 21, 2018,
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 21st day of November,
2017.

RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED