

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 17-311

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM P. CERVONE, State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that allegations have been made against Gerald Matthew Whitehead, Jr., for aggravated assault; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM P. CERVONE has also advised the Governor that the defendant is related to the Sheriff of Union County, and both the defendant and his extended family have been political supporters and personal acquaintances of the State Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM P. CERVONE, 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 JEFFREY A. SIEGMEISTER, State Attorney for the Third 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 JEFFREY A. SIEGMEISTER discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM P. CERVONE, 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 JEFFREY A. SIEGMEISTER, State Attorney for the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM P. CERVONE, State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Gerald Matthew Whitehead, Jr.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Eighth 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 29, 2018.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before October 29, 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

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

RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

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

FILED  
2017 NOV 29 PM 12:57  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA