

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 17-97

(Executive Order of Suspension)

**WHEREAS**, James A. Harris, Jr., is currently serving as the Tax Collector of Franklin County, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2017, James A. Harris, Jr. was arrested, and was charged by Information on April 3, 2017, with one count of Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor, a second-degree felony in violation of section 794.05(1), Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, Article IV, Section 7, Florida Constitution, provides that the Governor may suspend from office any county officer for commission of a felony; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the residents of Franklin County, and the citizens of the State of Florida, that James A. Harris, Jr., be immediately suspended from the public office he now holds, upon the grounds set forth in this executive order.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT**, Governor of Florida, pursuant to Article IV, Section 7, Florida Constitution, Florida Statutes, find as follows:

A. James A. Harris, Jr., is, and at all times material hereto was, serving as the Tax Collector of Franklin County.

B. The office of Tax Collector of Franklin County, Florida, is within the purview of the suspension powers of the Governor, pursuant to Article IV, Section 7, of the Florida Constitution.

C. On March 31, 2017, James A. Harris, Jr., was arrested, and was been charged by Information on April 3, 2017, with Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor, a second-degree felony in violation of section 794.05(1), Florida Statutes, as evidenced by the attached Information, which is incorporated as if fully stated in this Executive Order.

**BEING FULLY ADVISED** in the premises, and in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida, this Executive Order is issued, effective immediately:

Section 1. James A. Harris, Jr., is suspended from the public office that he now holds, to wit: Tax Collector of Franklin County, Florida.

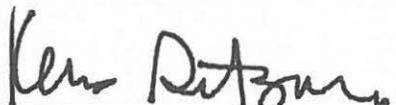
Section 2. James A. Harris, Jr., is prohibited from performing any official act, duty, or function of public office; from receiving any pay or allowance; and from being entitled to any of the emoluments or privileges of public office during the period of this suspension, which period shall be from today, until a further Executive Order is issued, or as otherwise provided by law.



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 3rd day of April, 2017.

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

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY OF STATE

RECEIVED  
2017 APR -3 PM 12:17  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND  
FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA.

STATE OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 1700081CFMA

vs.

\*\*INFORMATION\*\*

James A Harris, Jr.  
W/M, 02/11/1961  
SSN 263-81-3481

Defendant(s).

INFORMATION FOR:

SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH 16 OR 17 YEAR OLD (F2) (ref. #2711)(L6)

IN THE NAME OF AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:

JACK CAMPBELL, State Attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida, charges that in FRANKLIN County, Florida, the above-named defendant(s):

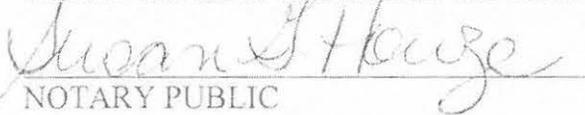
On March 31, 2017, did unlawfully engage in sexual activity with M.T., a person 16 or 17 years of age, by oral penetration or union with the sexual organ of another, and the defendant was 24 years of age or older, contrary to Section 794.05, Florida Statutes.

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN

JACK CAMPBELL, STATE ATTORNEY  
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

  
Jarred H. Patterson  
Designated Assistant State Attorney

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on April 3, 2017, by Jarred H. Patterson, Designated Assistant State Attorney by Jack Campbell, State Attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida, who is known to me and did take an oath stating good faith in instituting the prosecution and certifying that testimony was received under oath from the material witness or witnesses for the offense pursuant to F.R.Cr.P. 3.140(g).

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

