

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 18-49

WHEREAS, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that a violation of probation warrant has been issued for Ricky L. Smith; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON has also advised the Governor that, while in private practice, she was one of the attorneys that represented Ricky L. Smith in post-conviction proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, to avoid a conflict of interest or any appearance of impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified herself 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 P. CERVONE, State Attorney for the Eighth 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 WILLIAM P. CERVONE discharge the duties of the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, 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 P. CERVONE, State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Ricky L. 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 Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are vested with the authority to perform the duties prescribed herein.

Section 3.

All residents of the Fourth 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 20, 2019.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before January 20, 2019,  
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 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

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  
2018 FEB 20 PM 1:14  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA