

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-34

WHEREAS, the Honorable ARAMIS D. AYALA, State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Joe Castrofort has been charged with tampering with a witness and unlawful use of a two-way communication device; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable ARAMIS D. AYALA has also advised the Governor that Joe Castrofort is a defense attorney and has pending cases in the Ninth Judicial Circuit. In addition, several employees of the state attorney's office are potential witnesses; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable ARAMIS D. AYALA, 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 PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth 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 PHIL ARCHER discharge the duties of the Honorable ARAMIS D. AYALA, pursuant to section 27.14, Florida Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my solemn constitutional duty to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed," and pursuant to

to the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1.

The Honorable PHIL ARCHER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable ARAMIS D. AYALA, State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Joe Castorf.

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

Section 3.

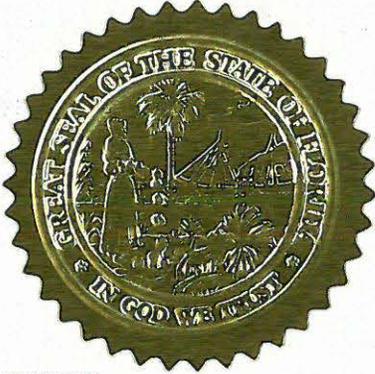
All residents of the Ninth Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4.

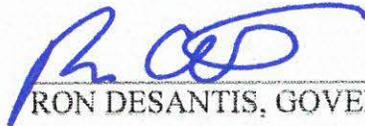
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including February 11, 2021.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before January 11, 2021,
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 11th day of February, 2020.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2020 FEB 11 PM 4:20
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA