

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 21-154 (State Attorney Executive Assignment)

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Shimeeka Daquiel Gridine, who was 14 years old at the time of the offenses, was tried as an adult and convicted of attempted first-degree murder and attempted armed robbery and sentenced to 70 years and 25 years, respectively. Both sentences were imposed concurrently with a minimum mandatory prison sentence of 25 years. The defendant appealed his convictions, and the Florida Supreme Court remanded the defendant's case for resentencing in the trial court; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON has also advised the Governor that, while in private practice, she engaged in a series of meetings regarding the representation of juvenile defendants whose cases were returned to the trial court for resentencing after the U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *Graham v. Florida* and *Miller v. Alabama*. During those meetings, the defendant's case was among the cases discussed; 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 BRIAN S. KRAMER, 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 BRIAN S. KRAMER discharge the duties of the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON 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 the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1. The Honorable BRIAN S. KRAMER, 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 Shimeeka Daquiel Gridine.

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.

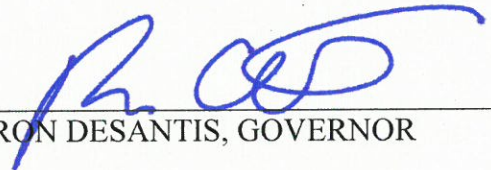
Section 4. The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including July 8, 2022.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before June 8, 2022,

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 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

  
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RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

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