

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 21-259

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR, State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Courtney Richards has a pending change of plea and re-sentencing pursuant to an affirmed mandate for Motion for Post-Conviction Relief; and

WHEREAS, the State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida previously handled this case under Executive Orders 11-85 and 14-286 followed by Executive Order 18-199, extended by Executive Order 19-151; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR has also advised the Governor that the original conflict continues to exist as Courtney Richards is a former employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR, 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 change of plea and re-sentencing and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DAVID ARONBERG, State Attorney for the Fifteenth 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 DAVID ARONBERG discharge the duties of the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR 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 DAVID ARONBERG, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable HAROLD F. PRYOR, State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the change of plea and re-sentencing and all matters related to Courtney Richards.

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

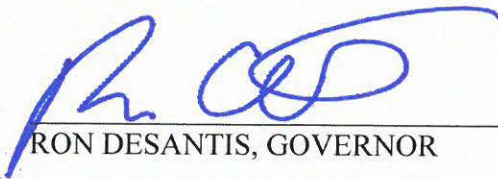
Section 3. All residents of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4. The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including December 17, 2022.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before November 17, 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 17th day of December, 2021.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

2021 DEC 17 PM 2:43

FILED