

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 21-89

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable LARRY BASFORD, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that William Franklin McKeithen III has been arrested for trafficking in amphetamine (14 grams or more) and possession of paraphernalia (use) and has two pending violation of probation cases; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable LARRY BASFORD has also advised the Governor William Franklin McKeithen is related to a former Bay County Sheriff who is currently an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable LARRY BASFORD, 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 investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN, State Attorney for the First 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 GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN discharge the duties of the Honorable LARRY BASFORD 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 GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable LARRY BASFORD, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to William Franklin McKeithen III.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Fourteenth 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 April 26, 2022.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before March 26, 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 26th day of April, 2021.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2021 APR 26 AM 9:27
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED