

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-94

WHEREAS, the Honorable GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Travis Alan Kern has been charged with lewd or lascivious molestation and two counts of battery; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable GLENN HESS has also advised the Governor that Travis Alan Kern is a former law enforcement officer, and is related by marriage to a law enforcement officer with the Bay County Sheriff's Office, and that one of the defense witnesses is related by marriage to a former prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable GLENN HESS, 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 WILLIAM EDDINS, 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 WILLIAM EDDINS discharge the duties of the Honorable GLENN HESS, 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 WILLIAM EDDINS, 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 GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Travis Alan Kern.

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.

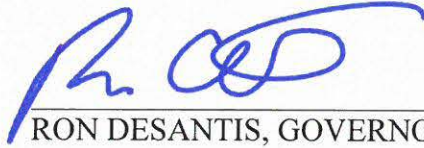
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including March 28, 2020.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before February 28, 2020, 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 28th day of March, 2019.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2019 MAR 28 PM 3:22
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED