

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 25-61

(State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM SCHEINER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Samantha Barrett is under investigation for contributing to the delinquency or dependency of a child; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM SCHEINER has also advised the Governor that Samantha Barrett is an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM SCHEINER, 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 regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Samantha Barrett; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable THOMAS BAKKEDAHL, State Attorney for the Nineteenth 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 THOMAS BAKKEDAHL discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM SCHEINER, 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 THOMAS BAKKEDAHL, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM SCHEINER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Samantha Barrett.

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

Section 3. All residents of the Eighteenth 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 18, 2026.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before February 18, 2026, 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 18th day of March, 2025.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL
2025 MAR 18 PM 2:02

FILED