

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 24-163 (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 Crispen Hart has been arrested for exposure of sexual organs (vulgar/indecent manner or naked in public) (two counts); and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable MELISSA W. NELSON has also advised the Governor that an employee of the state attorney's office is a witness in this case; 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 regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Crispen Hart; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh 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 R.J. LARIZZA 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 R.J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh 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, regarding the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters regarding Crispin Hart.

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 August 7, 2025.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before July 7, 2025, 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 7th day of August, 2024.

  
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RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE

2024 AUG - 7 PM 3:09  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

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