

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 12-38**

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Rhett Tyler James has been arrested for felony battery; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS has also advised the Governor that Rhett Tyler James is related to an employee of the state attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest or impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified himself and has requested the executive assignment of another State Attorney with respect to the investigation and potential prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has agreed to accept an executive assignment in this matter; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable GLENN HESS discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, pursuant to Section 27.14, Florida Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, 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 GLENN HESS, State Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, potential prosecution, and all matters related to Rhett Tyler James.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the First 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 February 7, 2013.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before January 7, 2013,  
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 February, 2012.

  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED