

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 12-69

WHEREAS, the Honorable R. J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RICK SCOTT that Robert Thorton Smith has been charged with obtaining property with worthless check; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R. J. LARIZZA has also advised that Robert Thorton Smith is a former employee of the state attorney's office and is a volunteer for the state attorney's 2012 reelection campaign; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable R. J. LARIZZA, 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 with respect to the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable NORMAN R. WOLFINGER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth 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 NORMAN R. WOLFINGER discharge the duties of the Honorable R. J. LARIZZA, 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 NORMAN R. WOLFINGER, State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the "Assigned State Attorney," is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable R. J. LARIZZA, State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution and all matters related to Robert Thorton Smith.

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

Section 3.

All residents of the Seventh 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 20, 2013.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before February 20, 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 20th day of March, 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ron DeSantis', written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2012 MAR 20 AM 10:35
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA