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CITRUS, HERNANDO, LAKE, MARION, AND SUMTER COUNTIES

Reply to:
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Re: Non-Arrest Criminal Case Referrals

Due to a tremendous increase in the number of pending cases and staffing issues resulting from the pandemic, our office is implementing a new policy limiting the number of cases we will accept for non-arrest review. Doing so will allow us to reallocate a lawyer position to prosecute the back log of pending cases which must be our priority at this time. We will continue to have an on-call attorney available to your officers at any time day or night for the review of warrant requests. Furthermore, your officers are welcome to contact our staff to discuss an investigation or ask questions as they traditionally have. This policy will go into effect on May 1st.

Our office will review non-arrest cases on the following crimes:

- Homicide
- Sex crimes and child abuse
- Violent 1st and 2nd degree felonies
- Trafficking offenses

We would ask that if a case involving the above crimes is referred to our office for review, that the lead officer on the case schedule time to meet with an ASA to discuss the case. Cases not falling into the above categories, will need to be referred to our office as the result of an arrest. If you have a case you feel warrants review by our office that does not fit this criterion, please contact the Division Supervisor.

I appreciate your continued support and understanding as we navigate these uncertain times.

Walter Forgie



Chief Assistant State Attorney