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Serving Marion, Lake, Citrus, Sumter, Hernando Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**State Attorney William “Bill” Gladson
Creates Elder Abuse Fatality Review Team**

OCALA, FL – State Attorney William “Bill” Gladson has created an Elder Abuse Fatality Review Team for Citrus, Hernando, Marion, Lake and Sumter counties. The Florida legislature in 2020 signed into law [Florida Statute §415.1103](#) which allows Gladson to initiate a team of qualified citizens to review closed cases which resulted in an elderly person’s death found to have been caused by, or related to, abuse or neglect.

The team will identify potential gaps, deficiencies, or problems in the delivery of services to elderly persons and, whenever possible, will develop communitywide approaches to address the causes and contributing factors of these deaths. The team will also develop recommendations and potential changes in law, rules, and policies to prevent elder abuse deaths.

“Having a skilled team of investigators in place to identify deficiencies, and in some cases, recommend changes to the Florida Legislature, will help protect our most cherished citizens at a time when they are most vulnerable,” said Gladson. “If our efforts save one life, I’ll know it was a worthwhile task.”

Gladson will initiate the team’s first meeting and refer closed cases to the team. Gladson or a designee from his office will also serve on the team. The group will provide an annual summary report to the Department of Elderly Affairs with suggestions for system improvements and ways to prevent future deaths, among other data and recommendations.

William “Bill” Gladson was elected State Attorney for the Fifth Judicial Circuit in November 2020 and took office January 2021. He is a former law enforcement officer and career prosecutor with over 20 years of trial experience. As State Attorney, Gladson leads a team of over 250 employees who serve the citizens of Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter counties, an area encompassing more than 1.2 million people.

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