

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff,

DIVISION IV

vs.

CASE NO.: 2023-CF-002250
2023-CF-002251

CHRISTIAN VARGAS,

Defendant.

MOTION TO RETAIN JURISDICTION

COMES NOW the Defendant, **CHRISTIAN VARGAS, ("VARGAS")**, and respectfully files this, his Motion for the Honorable William E. Davis, Circuit Judge to Retain Jurisdiction after July 1, 2025, and as grounds therefore states as follows:

1. That **VARGAS** was arrested on July 19, 2023 on all case numbers herein, and was First Appeared on the same day. The Defendant was released on bond on July 20, 2023.
2. That undersigned counsel filed his Notice of Appearance with this Court on August 7, 2023.
3. That an Information was filed on January 11, 2024 in both cases.
4. That this Court has monitored and maintained these cases for nearly two (2) years and is intimately familiar with the complex details that include multiple case numbers and multiple potential victims.
5. Depositions of State witnesses are now concluded and the defense and State of Florida have initiated plea negotiations. It is extremely unlikely that the cases will proceed to trial, but rather that the cases herein will result in a negotiated plea. Moreover, it is likely that the case will conclude in the next sixty (60) days.

6. It was announced on June 13, 2025, that the presiding circuit judge, the Honorable William E. Davis, has been elected the new Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit and that he will be terminating his position as presiding Judge of Division IV of the Circuit Criminal Division in and for Alachua County upon assuming the role of Chief Judge on July 1, 2025.¹
7. Due to the complexity of this case and the interest of judicial economy, the Defendant respectfully requests that Judge Davis continue to preside over these cases until their conclusion.
8. No statute or rule prohibits the Chief Judge from continuing to preside over any case in his jurisdiction.
9. Florida Statutes, §43.26 and Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, Rule 2.215 require the Chief Judge to effectuate the prompt and efficient administration of justice in his Circuit. **VARGAS** asserts that the granting of the relief sought herein promotes these mandates.
10. That on June 25, 2025, undersigned counsel conferred with Assistant State Attorney Lua Lepianka, regarding the position of the State of Florida concerning the within Motion. Undersigned counsel is authorized to represent that the State would defer to the discretion of the Court.

¹ Administrative Order 9.03 (2025-3), Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, General Assignments, Circuit Criminal Assignments, page 3 (Effective July 1, 2025)

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully submitted that this Court should enter its Order authorizing and permitting the Honorable William E. Davis, Circuit Judge to retain jurisdiction of the cases herein after July 1, 2025, for the reasons and upon the authority cited herein.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gilbert A. Schaffnit
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by Electronic Filing to The Office of the State Attorney on this the 25th day of June, 2025.

Gilbert A. Schaffnit, Esquire
Attorney for: **VARGAS**