

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR  
OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

CASE NO: 49-2024-CF-001293

Plaintiff,

DIVISION: 12-A

vs.

STEPHAN MICHAEL STERNS

Defendant.

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**NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK THE PENALTY OF DEATH**

THE STATE OF FLORIDA hereby notices the Defendant and the Court that, based upon the information available at this time, as to the facts of this offense and the Defendant's prior record, sufficient aggravating circumstances do exist to justify the imposition of the death penalty as to this Defendant in this case. Therefore, the State will be requesting the imposition of the death penalty should the Defendant be convicted in this case.

Pursuant to Florida Statute 782.04(1)(b), the State intends to prove and has reason to believe it can prove beyond a reasonable doubt the following aggravating circumstances:

1. The defendant was previously convicted of another capital felony or of a felony involving the use or threat of violence to the person. § 921.141(6)(b), *Fla. Stat.*
2. The capital felony was committed while the defendant was engaged in the commission of, or an attempt to commit aggravated child abuse. § 921.141(6)(d), *Fla. Stat.*
3. The capital felony was especially heinous, atrocious, or cruel. § 921.141(6)(h), *Fla. Stat.*

4. The victim of the capital felony was particularly vulnerable due to advanced age or disability, or because the defendant stood in a position of familial or custodial authority over the victim. § 921.141(6)(m), *Fla. Stat.*

I CERTIFY that a copy hereof has been furnished to Alesha C. Smith, [asmith@circuit9.org](mailto:asmith@circuit9.org) and [Division301@Circuit9.org](mailto:Division301@Circuit9.org), 1 Courthouse Square, Suite 3200, Kissimmee, FL 34741 by e-mail on this 7th day of June, 2024.

*Danielle Pinnell*

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