

32,475 Involuntary Psychiatric Examinations Initiated on Children in Florida

One in six Baker Acts were initiated on children during 2015/2016 prompting CCHR to launch a public information campaign to educate families on their rights.

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, June 28, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), a non-profit mental health watchdog dedicated to the eradication of abuses committed under the guise of mental health, regularly hosts a seminar on the Florida mental health law, commonly referred to as the [Baker Act](#), for the purpose of educating the public on their rights and how they can protect themselves and their loved ones from the abusive use of this law.

In the 15 years from Fiscal Year (FY) 2001/2002 to 2015/2016 the number of involuntary psychiatric examinations in Florida more than doubled with 194,354 Baker Acts initiated. Even more disturbing is that statewide [involuntary examinations](#) for children increased 49.30% from FY 2010/2011 to 2015/2016. [1]

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While the original stated intention of the Baker Act was to protect the rights of citizens sent for involuntary psychiatric examination, it has become a source of great abuse.”

Diane Stein, President CCHR Florida

experience on the mental health law. Now in the private sector, Ms. Miller specializes in cases of those who have been Baker Acted.

“Most people are not aware that one’s child can be taken right out of school and Baker Acted, without knowledge or consent from the parents,” said Mrs. Miller, “People need to know their rights so they can protect themselves and their loved ones.”

While the original stated intention of the Baker Act was to protect the rights of citizens sent for involuntary psychiatric examination, it has become a source of great abuse. To [learn more](#) about the

Normal Childhood Behavior is not a Mental Illness

INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT of MINORS

Children have tantrums and teenagers have dramatic moments. This behavior can be misinterpreted as signs of mental illness.

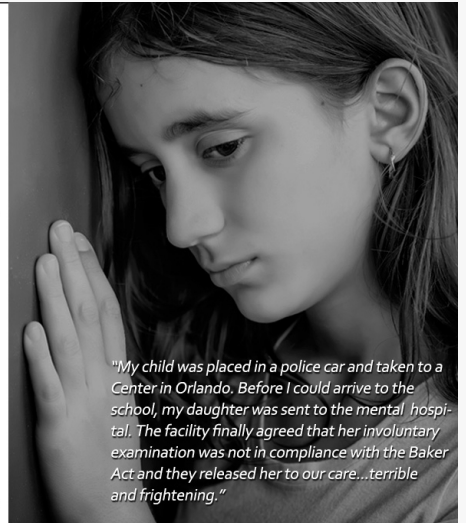
These specifically are not criteria for Baker Acting a child and are excluded from the definition of mental illness in the state of Florida.



Protect Children’s Rights and Ensure Parental Involvement

Citizens Commission On Human Rights
Call 800.782.2878, for more information
www.cchrflorida.org

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“My child was placed in a police car and taken to a Center in Orlando. Before I could arrive to the school, my daughter was sent to the mental hospital. The facility finally agreed that her involuntary examination was not in compliance with the Baker Act and they released her to our care...terrible and frightening.”

Normal Childhood Behavior is not a Mental Illness

Baker Act or to reserve a seat at the next seminar please call 727-442-8820.

About CCHR: Initially established by the Church of Scientology and renowned psychiatrist Dr. Thomas Szasz in 1969, CCHR's mission is to eradicate abuses committed under the guise of mental health and enact patient and consumer protections. It was L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology, who brought the terror of psychiatric imprisonment to the notice of the world. In March 1969, he said, "Thousands and thousands are seized without process of law, every week, over the 'free world' tortured, castrated, killed. All in the name of 'mental health.'" For more information visit, www.cchrflorida.org

Sources:

[1] Baker Act Annual Report
http://www.usf.edu/cbcs/baker-act/documents/annual_report.pdf

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It is important for parents to know and understand the mental health law in Florida as this law allows a child to be removed from school and sent for involuntary psychiatric examination without parental knowledge.



Who Speaks for the Child?

INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT of MINORS
Parents or legal guardians should be given the opportunity to take full responsibility for their child, as stated in the Baker Act criteria, for the purpose of obtaining consent for a voluntary examination prior to Baker Acting.

The Baker Act Criteria clearly allows for a person to be assisted through the help of willing family members or friends or the provision of other services **instead** of being Baker Acted.

It's the parent's right to be a voice for their child. This is **NOT** being done. The parent finds out **AFTER** their child has been Baker Acted.

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