

Watchdog Calling for an Investigation into the Baker Acting of Children in Florida

Mental Health Watchdog has received hundreds of calls from parents whose children were sent for involuntary psychiatric examinations without their knowledge.

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, December 23, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In 2018 an astounding 36,078 involuntary psychiatric examinations were initiated on children in Florida, an almost 19% increase over the past four years. [1] Called a [Baker Act](#), an involuntary examination of a minor allows for a child to be taken into custody and transported to a psychiatric facility without parental consent or knowledge.



Involuntary examinations are being initiated on children without parental knowledge. The parent finds out AFTER their child has been Baker Acted.

Launching a campaign at the beginning of 2016 to put an end to this violation of parental rights, the [Citizens Commission on Human Rights](#) (CCHR), a non-profit mental health watchdog, has worked to educate families at hundreds of community events and has helped to raise awareness on this violation of child and parent rights to more than 208,000 concerned individuals.

“

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Diane Stein, President CCHR Florida

CCHR's campaign educates citizens on the existing law and provides parents with a form they can fill out and file with their children's school. This form uses existing state law to help protect parental rights. Families interested in learning more about how to protect their children, or to obtain a copy of the form, are encouraged to visit the CCHR center

at 109 N. Fort Harrison in downtown Clearwater or to download the [Parental Baker Act Non-Consent Form](#) on the website, www.cchrflorida.org.

“The vast majority of calls we received from parents clearly show that the child never met the criteria for involuntary examination,” said Diane Stein, President of CCHR Florida.

Over the past year CCHR has filed hundreds of complaints with government agencies and State Legislators reporting violations of human, parental and child rights and while some changes have been made the changes are not sufficient to stem the abusive use of the Baker Act.

As a result, CCHR is calling for the following:

- Steps implemented at a government level to ensure greater oversight and ultimate

accountability for the for-profit and not-for-profit psychiatric treatment sector and its billing practices

- The abusive use of the Baker Act stopped and parental rights restored
- Substantial penalties enacted for violation of any point of the mental health law

“Parental rights in Florida are in jeopardy and the Baker Act is one of the sources of erosion of these fundamental rights,” said Stein. “Action needs to be taken now to protect families and restore rights.”

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. L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, first brought psychiatric imprisonment to wide public notice: “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,’” he wrote in March 1969.

Sources:

[1] https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/baker-act/documents/ba_usf_annual_report_2017_2018.pdf

Diane Stein
Citizens Commission on Human Rights of Florida
+1 727-422-8820

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The Florida chapter of CCHR is a non-profit mental health watchdog dedicated to the protection of children.



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.



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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The headquarters for CCHR Florida are located in downtown Clearwater.

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.

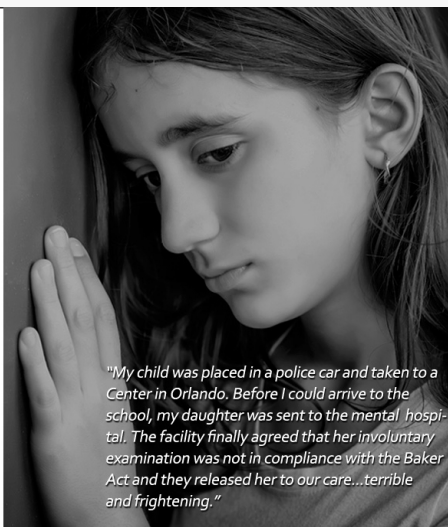
These specifically are not criteria for Baker Acting a child and are excluded from the definition of mental illness in the state of Florida.

Protect Children's Rights and Ensure Parental Involvement



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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

This press release can be viewed online at: <http://www.einpresswire.com>

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