

Hundreds of Thousands of Families Educated on Their Rights Under the Baker Act

Mental Health Watchdog's campaign to educate parents on their rights has reached over 220,000 families since it was launched.

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, January 14, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Florida chapter of the [Citizens Commission on Human Rights](#) (CCHR) has participated in hundreds of family orientated events over the past several years on a crusade to stop the unjust involuntary psychiatric examination of children. The mental health law in Florida, commonly known as the [Baker Act](#), allows for the initiation of involuntary psychiatric examination of anyone no matter their age. This includes children and in the case of a child the parents are not being brought into the process. Instead the parent learns about the Baker Act after the child is already in custody.



Florida law allows for a child of any age to be taken into custody and sent for an involuntary psychiatric examination.

CCHR, a mental health watchdog that exposes abuse in the mental health industry, states that the abusive use of the Baker Act to hold men, women and children is a statewide epidemic. According to official reports, the number of children in Florida being sent for involuntary examination has continued to climb with more than 36,000 Baker Act initiations in 2018 alone. [1] This dramatic increase prompted investigations by journalists who exposed abuse, potential fraud and how children are being ripped from their families. [2]

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Diane Stein, President of CCHR Florida

“We receive countless calls from desperate parents asking for help because their child has been taken into custody under a Baker Act,” said Diane Stein, President of CCHR Florida. “And we are finding that the vast majority of these

children don't meet the criteria for involuntary psychiatric examination yet the facility is billing for the Baker Act. This is fraud.”

Taking action to stop this abuse, CCHR has been educating families on the Baker Act, holding workshops on [parental rights](#) and working with law enforcement, schools and lawmakers to make positive change to the Baker Act since 2015. Concerned parents are encouraged to contact CCHR Florida to learn more about their rights under the law at 800-782-2878. For more information visit www.cchrflorida.org.

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] Baker Act Report

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

[2] You're Trapped. They're Cashing In.

<https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2019/investigations/north-tampa-behavioral-health/>

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The headquarters for CCHR Florida are located in downtown Clearwater.



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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According to official reports, the number of children in Florida being sent for involuntary examination has continued to climb with more than 36,000 Baker Act initiations in 2018 alone.



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

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

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