

Mental Health Watchdog Fights Involuntary Psychiatric Examination of Kids in Florida

CCHR has helped secure the safe release of over 1,200 men, women and children who were being unjustly held under the Baker Act.,

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, January 21, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- According to the [Baker Act](#) Reporting Center, there were over 200,000 involuntary psychiatric examinations initiated in 2018 more than doubling over the past 17 years. Even more alarming is that more than 36,000 of these initiations were on children, some as young as 2-5 years old and in the vast majority of cases the parent was never brought into the process. [1]

The mental health law in Florida, commonly known as the Baker Act, allows for men, women and children to be sent against their will for involuntary examination at psychiatric wards known as Baker Act Receiving Facilities and held for up to 72 hours during which time, those being held may be drugged without their consent if an emergency treatment order is issued. [2]

“

Our Psychiatric Abuse Hotline receives too many calls from the families of victims who never met the criteria for a Baker Act yet are being held against their will in a psychiatric ward.”

Diane Stein, President CCHR Florida

This dramatic increase in indicative of abuse says the [Citizens Commission on Human Rights](#) (CCHR), a mental health watchdog that investigates and exposes human rights violations in the mental health industry.

“Our Psychiatric Abuse Hotline receives too many calls from the families of victims who never met the criteria for a Baker Act yet are being held against their will in a psychiatric ward,” said Diane Stein, President of the Florida chapter of CCHR.

In order to help address violations of human and civil rights under the mental health law, CCHR mans this Psychiatric Abuse Hotline so that individuals who need assistance have someone they can call and have logged thousands of calls over the past few years. During this same time period, CCHR has helped to secure the safe release of more than 1,200 people being held illegally in psychiatric wards and almost half of those helped were children. All assistance provided is free of charge and those manning the Hotline are trained and certified on the mental health law through the Department of Children and Families.

In addition to the Hotline, CCHR provides numerous other public services including the



There were more than 36,000 involuntary psychiatric examinations on children, some as young as 2-5 years old.

documentation of mental health abuses and the filing of complaints on behalf of the victims with the applicable agencies and officials. Since February of 2015, CCHR has filed over 1,000 complaints concerning abuse within the Florida mental health system resulting in numerous investigations and sanctions of the psychiatrists and facilities involved.

"Too often people, who seek help from psychiatrists, are the victims of human rights abuses. CCHR works to expose this abuse and to help those who have been unjustly incarcerated. Our intention is to change the involuntary commitment process," said Diane Stein.

CCHR encourages anyone who is aware of abuse within the field of mental health to fill out and abuse report form on their website by clicking here to [REPORT PSYCHIATRIC ABUSE](#).

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. For more information please visit www.cchrflorida.org.

Sources:

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

[2] Emergency Treatment Orders for the Administration of Psychotropic Medications
<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?ID=65E-5.1703>

Diane Stein
Citizens Commission on Human Rights of Florida
+1 727-422-8820
[email us here](#)
Visit us on social media:



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



The headquarters for CCHR Florida are located in downtown Clearwater.

Facebook
Twitter
LinkedIn



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

© 2012 CCHR Florida. All Rights Reserved. CCHR Logo, CCHR, Citizens Commission on Human Rights are trademarks and service marks owned by Citizens Commission on Human Rights and are used with its permission.



The mental health law currently allows for individuals of all ages, including children, to be taken into custody and sent for an involuntary psychiatric examination.

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

Disclaimer: If you have any questions regarding information in this press release please contact the company listed in the press release. Please do not contact EIN Presswire. We will be unable to assist you with your inquiry. EIN Presswire disclaims any content contained in these releases. © 1995-2020 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.