

Six-year-old Allegedly Forcibly Drugged in Psychiatric Facility: CCHR Demanding Answers

Mental Health Watchdog demands answers following the Baker Acting and alleged forced psychiatric drugging of child.

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, March 24, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- With all the media coverage and outrage over six-year-old Nadia Falk's forced stay and alleged drugging in a Florida psychiatric facility this February, a deeper question is raised. What is the justification for the [psychiatric drugging of children](#), and especially the drugging of a child without parental consent? [1]

"Health insurance reimbursements are higher and easier to obtain for drug treatment than therapy, which has contributed to the increase in psychotropic drug sales and a shifting of psychiatry toward psychopharmacology, says Daniel Carlat, MD, associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Tufts University and author of the 2010 book "Unhinged: The Trouble with Psychiatry."

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Diane Stein, President CCHR Florida



According to data taken from the IQVia Total Patient Tracker Database for Year 2019, extracted February 2020, 61,262 children between the ages of 0-5 years are prescribed antipsychotics in the U.S.

According to Dr. Carlat there is a huge financial incentive for psychiatrists to prescribe stating that a psychiatrist can make two, three and even four times as much money being a prescriber. This alleged inappropriate prescribing is fueled by aggressive marketing which has also increased the off-label prescription of antipsychotic drugs. [2]

How does off-label prescribing affect children? Joseph Austerman, DO, a child psychiatrist at Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital pointed out, "It's important to note that antipsychotic medications are largely prescribed as off-label treatment for illnesses in children." Citing that "it is

unclear the efficacy justifies the increased risk associated with their use," Austerman noted that the "standard procedure for doctors is to treat mental illnesses with behavioral interventions and to use other first-line treatments before considering antipsychotics." [3]

The president of the Florida chapter of the [Citizens Commission on Human Rights](#) (CCHR), said, "Profits are not any kind of justification for risky, drugging of children. Lack of professional integrity, in other words, using powerful drugs for higher billing rates and putting our children at risk, is unacceptable."

Almost 7 million children are currently prescribed a psychiatric drug in the United States with over 3.5 million of these children between the ages of 0-12. [4]

In the case of Nadia King, the mother has alleged that her six-year-old daughter was isolated, secluded and injected with Thorazine without her consent. Thorazine is a powerful antipsychotic drug that can result in tardive dyskinesia, which causes uncontrolled or involuntary movements, like twitching, grimacing, and thrusting. [5, 6,7]

As reported by multiple news sources earlier this year, Nadia King was taken into custody under the Baker Act, which is the Florida mental health law, for having a tantrum. The Baker Act allows anyone, including a child, to be sent for an involuntary psychiatric examination. [8]

Currently Nadia's mother, Martina Falk and the attorney for the family, Reganel Reeves, "are calling for changes to the act and its implementation. They are asking that Florida school districts implement better protocols to ensure parents are notified before the Baker Act is invoked, and that children under 10 years old only be subject to the act under extreme circumstances." [9]

The Times news story quoted Mr. Reeves who stated, "There's not a lot of litigation out there and that's why these schools have been so emboldened to [invoke the Baker Act]" says Reeves. "We do really want to get this case in court... We don't think Florida should be Baker Acting babies."

In the most recent report from the Baker Act Center, over 36,000 involuntary psychiatric examinations were initiated on children in Florida during 2017/2018. [10]

"In the vast majority of child Baker Acts the parents were never called and given an opportunity to help their child," said Stein. "This is a gross violation of parental and human rights and it is something that our organization and our coalition of human rights attorneys is going to change."



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.

CCHR encourages parents who wish to know more about their rights to call 800-782-2878 and to report any abuse or violations of rights on their website at [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.

[1] 'Am I going to jail?' Shocking moment a SIX-YEAR-OLD girl is committed to a mental health facility without her parents' permission where she was sedated and kept from her mom for TWO DAYS because her school said she was 'out of control' <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8004333/Shocking-moment-six-year-old-girl-involuntarily-committed-mental-health-facility.html>

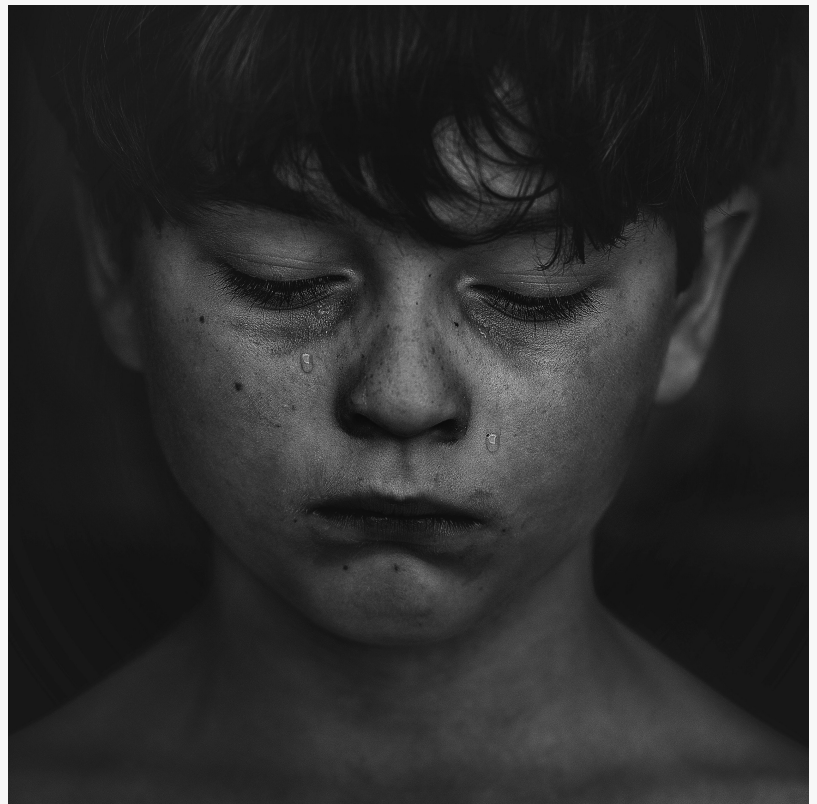
[2] Inappropriate prescribing: Research shows that all too often, Americans are taking medications that may not work or may be inappropriate for their mental health problems. By Brendan L. Smith, June 2012 <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2012/06/prescribing>

(3) Healthline: Children Can Suffer Serious Side Effects from Antipsychotic Medications
Experts say medical professionals should use caution when prescribing drugs for children's mental health issues. <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/antipsychotic-meds-may-be-deadly-for-some-children>

[4] Number of Children & Adolescents Taking Psychiatric Drugs in the U.S. <https://www.cchr.org/psychiatric-drugs/children-on-psychiatric-drugs/>



Children are being drugged simply because psychiatry has pathologized normal childhood behaviors, and repackaged them as "mental disorders."



It was reported during the Baker Act Task Force that an estimated 30% of the children being Baker Acted in Pinellas County alone did not meet the criteria.

[5] Six Year-Old Sent To Mental Health Facility <https://www.thesfnews.com/six-year-old-sent-to-mental-health-facility/53733>

[6] Thorazine Side Effects Center <https://www.rxlist.com/thorazine-side-effects-drug-center.htm#overview>

[7] Healthline: Tardive Dyskinesia <https://www.healthline.com/health/tardive-dyskinesia>

[8] After a 6-Year-Old Girl Acted 'Out of Control' in School, She Was Involuntarily Committed to a Mental Health Facility <https://time.com/5784757/nadia-king-florida-baker-act-school/>

[9] Ibid.

[10] Baker Act Reporting Center https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/baker-act/documents/ba_usf_annual_report_2017_2018.pdf

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