

What are Parental Rights? New Website Provides Answers to Florida Parents

While parental rights are viewed as fundamental many families wonder what these rights are and where they can be found, CCHR's website answers these questions.

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[/EINPresswire.com/](http://EINPresswire.com/) -- Even before the current pandemic scare, Florida parents have worried about protecting their children, particularly at school. The fact that children were being regularly taken from school without prior parental notice or agreement for involuntary psychiatric examination made many ask the question: What are my rights? What can I legally do to protect my child?



The headquarters for CCHR Florida are located in downtown Clearwater.

Federal and Florida state laws do cover many of the rights accorded to parents, guardians and caregivers, but these rights are scattered throughout volumes of legal language making it difficult for the average person to find and understand these rights.

“

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Diane Stein, President of CCHR Florida

An attempt was made to place many of these rights into a single section of the Florida statutes making parental rights a hot topic in the legislature at Tallahassee this past session. Though the bill was not passed, there was a great deal of support for the bill and the protection of parental rights.

“The overwhelming support for the creation of a Parents Bill of Rights, as it was being called, clearly pointed to the fact that families need to have easy access to their rights so they can know and understand them,” stated the president of the Florida chapter of the [Citizens](#)

[Commission on Human Rights](#). “As a human rights group, we took it upon ourselves to place some of these rights on our newly revised website.”

As a mental health watchdog organization, the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) has been at the forefront in helping parents whose children have been involuntarily taken to a psychiatric facility for examination under Florida’s controversial [Baker Act](#). The Baker Act of children, as it is commonly known, is just one of many confusing situations where parental rights come into question.

With the launch of a newly revised website designed to answer these questions, CCHR Florida

aims to help parents through this bureaucratic maze by clearly listing many of the rights that parents have in the areas of health care, mental health and education.

“Despite the fact that the law clearly states that a person in crisis can be helped by a willing family member in place of a Baker Act, this is being ignored and this is a violation of rights,” stated Diane Stein.

The Baker Act made international news earlier this year when it was arguably misapplied in the case of 6-year-old Nadia King who was taken into custody and transported to a psychiatric ward and allegedly drugged without the mother’s consent. [1]

In 2018 the Baker Act Center reported that more than 36,000 involuntary psychiatric examinations were initiated on children. [2] Many of these families contact CCHR Florida looking for help when their child has been Baker Acted and many parents, undergoing what was to them their worst nightmare, have felt powerless to protect their child until CCHR provided copies of the law and explained their rights. Knowing these rights empowered families to help secure the safe release of their children and armed them with the knowledge they need to protect their children from this particular abuse.

“We want to give parents the tools to deal with issues that arise such as demands for a child to be given a mental health screening or to be given dangerous psychiatric drugs,” stated Ms. Stein. “The first step is for the parent to clearly understand their rights so that they can make an informed decision as to what is best for their child.”

As stated by the United States Supreme Court, “The history and culture of Western civilization reflect a strong tradition of parental concern for the nurture and upbringing of their children. This primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition.” [3]

Ms. Stein went on to explain, “Parents have rights. They can be known. They can be understood. We can, as parents, protect our children.”



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



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.

CCHR encourages parents who wish to know more about their rights to call 800-782-2878 or visit <https://www.cchrflorida.org/parental-rights/> 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.

Sources:

[1] 6-year-old Florida girl "traumatized" after being involuntarily sent to mental health facility

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/florida-baker-act-6-year-old-girl-sent-to-mental-health-facility-by-school/>

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

[3] Wisconsin v. Yoder, 406, U.S. 205, 232 (1972)

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

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



As reported by the Baker Act Reporting Center, an astounding 36,078 involuntary psychiatric examinations were initiated on children across the state.

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

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