

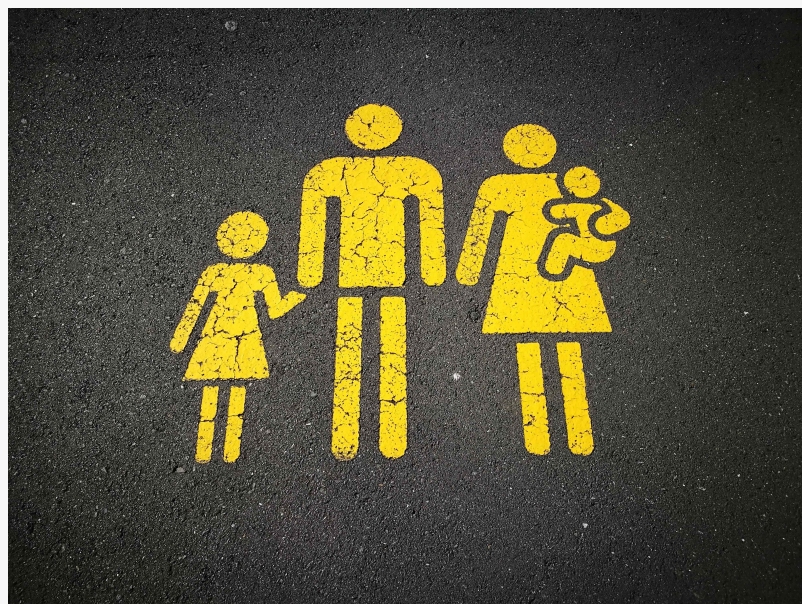
# Mental Health Watchdog Launches Website to Educate Parents on Their Rights

*A new website hosted by Citizens Commission on Human Rights of Florida is helping parents find their way through the maze of laws related to parental rights.*

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, April 15, 2020

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Earlier this month the Florida chapter of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), an international mental health watchdog organization, launched a newly revised website designed to help parents understand some of the rights accorded to them under the law.

While [parental rights](#) have historically been viewed as fundamental, an erosion of these rights have prompted the passage of laws on a state and federal level to protect some of these rights. However, many parents do not fully understand their rights and are not aware of the laws that protect these rights.



The right as a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of your minor child is fundamental.

In the wake of the failure to pass a hotly debated Parental Rights bill in Tallahassee this past session, CCHR Florida unveiled the new site with the aim to help families by clearly listing many of the rights that parents have in the areas of health care, mental health and education.

“

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*Diane Stein, President CCHR Florida*

Known statewide for their work in helping parents whose children have been involuntarily taken to a psychiatric facility for examination under Florida’s controversial [Baker Act](#), CCHR’s focus on parental rights is not new. Since launching a campaign in 2015 to raise awareness on the abuses being committed in the area of the Baker Act of children, CCHR has been calling for a restoration of parental rights in Florida.

“The law clearly states that a person in crisis can be helped by a willing family member in place of a Baker Act but this is being ignored and when you are dealing with a child this is not just abuse it is a parental rights violation,” states the president of CCHR in Florida, Diane Stein.

In 2018 the Baker Act Center reported that more than 36,000 involuntary psychiatric examinations were initiated on children across the state and the Baker Act made international

news earlier this year when the story 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 went viral. [1, 2]

Hundreds of parents have called CCHR looking for help when their child was Baker Acted and many parents reported that they felt powerless to protect their child until CCHR provided copies of the law and explained their rights. Knowing these rights empowered families to help their children and armed them with the knowledge they need to protect their children from this particular type of mental health abuse.

CCHR encourages parents who wish to know more about their rights, who feel they have been pressured to subject their child to unwanted psychiatric screening/treatment or whose child has been inappropriately Baker Acted to please 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](http://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](https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/baker-act/documents/ba_usf_annual_report_2017_2018.pdf)



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.



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During 2017-2018 there were a staggering 36,078 involuntary psychiatric examinations initiated on children across the state.



### 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](http://www.cchrflorida.org)

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