

Over 260,000 Reached in Campaign to Educate Parents on Their Rights

While parental rights are viewed as fundamental many families wonder what these rights are and where they can be found, this campaign answers these questions.

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EINPresswire.com/ -- Earlier this year the Florida chapter of the [Citizens Commission on Human Rights](#) (CCHR) launched a social media campaign designed to provide summaries of some of the legal concepts, rights, and facts relating to certain important student and parental rights.



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

"We began this campaign because while parental rights have historically been viewed as fundamental, many parents do not fully understand their rights," stated Diane Stein, president of CCHR Florida.

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Parents have rights. They can be known. They can be understood. We can, as parents, protect our children.”

Diane Stein, President CCHR Florida

With a newly revised website, including a [free eBook](#) that parents can download, CCHR used social media to educate over 260,000 people on parental rights in Florida. The website and eBook use existing statutes and case law to furnish easy to read and understand material that parents can use as a guide. The rights listed on the website and in the eBook are clear and concise, making social media a great way to spread the word.

Already recognized for their work in helping parents whose children have been involuntarily taken to a psychiatric facility for examination under Florida's mental health law, called the Baker Act, CCHR's focus on parental rights has been a major focus since 2015 when the organization began in earnest to raise awareness on the Baker Act abuse of children.

"The law allows for a person in crisis to be helped by a willing family member instead of Baker Acting them but this is being ignored in the case of children," said Diane Stein. "Parents are not notified that their child needs help until after they are in custody and being taken to a psychiatric facility."

According to the Baker Act Center, more than 36,000 involuntary psychiatric examinations were initiated on children across the state and in February of this year, Florida made news worldwide when 6-year-old Nadia King was Baker Acted and allegedly drugged without the mother's consent. [1, 2]

Operating a hotline for people in need of help when someone they know has been Baker Acted, CCHR has received thousands of calls for help and hundreds of these are calls from desperate parents whose child has been taken into custody.

"We want to give parents the tools protect their children when a Baker Act happens but more importantly, we want to help prevent the unnecessary trauma of such a drastic measure from occurring in the first place," stated Ms. Stein.

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]

CCHR encourages parents who wish to know more about their rights, who feel they have been



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.

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 make a report 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)



Under the Baker Act, a person, no matter their age, can be taken into custody for an involuntary psychiatric examination.



The interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children is recognized as a fundamental liberty protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

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