

# Watchdog CCHR to Host a Baker Act Rights Seminar for World Mental Health Day

*CCHR is hosting a virtual seminar on Baker Act Rights with special guest speaker attorney Carmen Miller.*

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, October 6, 2020

/EINPresswire.com/ -- During a meeting of the Children's [Baker Act](#) Task Force, it was revealed that a significant number of children sent for an involuntary psychiatric examination did not meet the criteria to be taken into custody. Unfortunately, this is not new information. The mental health watchdog, the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), has been reporting on this alarming trend for years and as part of a campaign to end abusive use of this law, CCHR engages in numerous public information activities including seminars and workshops delivered virtually and at the headquarters in downtown Clearwater, Florida. [1]



The virtual seminar scheduled on October 10th for World Mental Health Day features attorney Carmen Miller, a former assistant public defender in the Thirteenth Circuit in Tampa, with an extensive background in dealing with Baker Acts.

“

The original stated intention of the Baker Act was to protect the rights of citizens sent for involuntary psychiatric examination but it has become a source of great abuse.”

*Diane Stein, President CCHR  
Florida*

The next complimentary seminar is a virtual presentation scheduled for World Mental Health Day on October 10th from 11:30am until 12:30pm.

The mental health law in Florida, known as the Baker Act, allows for individuals of all ages, including children, to be taken into custody and sent for an involuntary psychiatric examination. The most recent report shows that there were more than 200,000 involuntary psychiatric examinations in Florida and that over 36,000 of these initiations involved children. [2]

Spurred into action by countless reports of abusive Baker Acting, CCHR launched a campaign in 2015 to educate families, lawmakers, law enforcement and school districts on mental health rights and in 2019 expanded this campaign to include [parental rights](#) in the area of mental health. Since campaign launch, over half a million people have been educated on their rights.

Seeing a need for professional advice, CCHR began hosting seminars delivered by professionals on the mental health law, parental rights, [psychiatric drug side effects](#) and more. With the recent change in how public events can be held due to restriction put in place in response to COVID-19, CCHR now holds these events virtually.

The virtual seminar scheduled on October 10th for World Mental Health Day features attorney Carmen Miller, a former assistant public defender in the Thirteenth Circuit in Tampa, with an extensive background in dealing with Baker Acts. Those in attendance will learn the basics of the law and what rights they have in a Baker Act situation.

“The original stated intention of the Baker Act was to protect the rights of citizens sent for involuntary psychiatric examination but it has become a source of great abuse,” stated the president for the CCHR chapter in Florida, Diane Stein. “For this reason, CCHR is on a mission to not only educate people on their rights but to end the abuse.”



The president of the Florida chapter of CCHR presented attorney Carmen Miller with the 2018 Humanitarian Award for her work to educate citizens on their rights under the mental health law.



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.



To learn more or to reserve a spot for this complimentary virtual seminar, please call 727-442-8820.

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 visit [www.cchrflorida.org](http://www.cchrflorida.org)

Sources:

[1] CHILDREN'S BAKER ACT TASK FORCE, MINUTES for FIRST MEETING 7.20.17

<https://myflfamilies.com/service-programs/samh/involuntary-examination-minors/docs/20170720/20170720-minutes.pdf>

[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)

Diane Stein

Citizens Commission on Human Rights of Florida

+1 727-422-8820

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



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



The headquarters for CCHR Florida are located in downtown Clearwater.

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/527843092>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2020 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.