

# CCHR Florida Offering Baker Act Continuing Education Course for Professionals

*Designed for mental health professionals, the virtual course is delivered by an attorney and covers the basic human rights impacted by the mental health law.*

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, April 13, 2021

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Florida's mental health law, commonly referred to as the [Baker Act](#), allows for individuals of all ages to be taken into custody for an involuntary psychiatric examination but it is often misunderstood and misused. [1]

According to the Baker Act Reporting Center, there were more than 210,000

Baker Acts initiated during 2018/2019 across the state with over 37,000 involving children. [2]

Headlines such as "6-year-old Florida girl "traumatized" after being involuntarily sent to mental health facility" and "Florida's flawed Baker Act rips

thousands of kids from school" are all too frequent and spurred the [Citizens Commission on Human Rights](#) (CCHR), a mental health watchdog, to begin offering continuing education on the law. After first receiving approval to host continuing education through the Florida Bar on the Baker Act for attorneys, the move to become a provider through the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling was a logical next step. [3,4]

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*president of CCHR Florida,  
Diane Stein*



CCHR is a provider of continuing education through the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling.

On Saturday, April 17th, CCHR is hosting a complimentary virtual course delivered by 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 context and intentions of the mental health law as well as the basic human rights impacted by the Baker Act and its unintended consequences.

“The education of those given the power to initiate a Baker Act on the points of the law is vital to the protection of liberty and human rights,” states the president of CCHR Florida, Diane Stein. “If the law itself is understood and applied from the viewpoint of using the least restrictive means possible to help someone in crisis then the potential for abuse is greatly reduced.”

The [virtual continuing education course](#) is designed for Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Marriage Family Therapists and Certified Master Social Workers and offers 3 CE credits upon completion. To learn more or to reserve a spot for this complimentary virtual course, 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] WUSF Health News Florida COMMITTED <https://wfsu.org/committed/> and Baker Act Abuse – Media Stories <https://www.cchrflorida.org/baker-act-abuse/>



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.



Tampa Bay area attorney and former Assistant Public Defender of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Carmen Miller, Esq., is the featured speaker for the course on mental health rights.

[2] Baker Act Reporting Center  
[https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/baker-act/documents/ba\\_usf\\_annual\\_report\\_2018\\_2019.pdf](https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/baker-act/documents/ba_usf_annual_report_2018_2019.pdf)

[3] Ibid.

[4] CCHR Continuing Education Courses  
<https://www.cchrflorida.org/category/continuing-education/>

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The headquarters for CCHR Florida are located in downtown Clearwater.



As reported by the Baker Act Reporting Center, an astounding 37,882 involuntary psychiatric examinations were initiated on children across the state.

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/538549610>

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