

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

*Amended Administrative Order No. 2025-18-PRC*

**BAKER ACT PROCEDURES**

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(a) Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(3) states the chief judge shall “ensures the efficient and proper administration of all courts within [this] circuit, considering available resources.”

(b) Chapter 394, Part I, Florida Statutes, commonly referred to as The Baker Act authorizes judges to enter ex parte orders for involuntary examination. The judges seek the least restrictive manner to link individuals with community mental health services to determine if an individual requires transfer for an involuntary examination or if community mental health services are available.

(c) In accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

(1) Upon the filing of a Petition and Affidavit Seeking Ex Parte Order Requiring Involuntary Examination, the Clerk of Court shall immediately forward the court records to the assigned judge.

(2) The judge shall determine if the allegations are sufficient for further assessment of the respondent.

(3) If the judge determines the allegations are insufficient for an involuntary examination, the ex parte petition shall be denied.

(4) If the judge determines the allegations are sufficient for an involuntary examination the ex parte petition shall be granted. Upon granting an ex parte petition, the court shall immediately forward the order to the Clerk of Court. Within six hours after the court issues an order, the Clerk of the Court shall electronically submit the order, the respondent information sheet and a copy of the petition via secure email to the Broward Sheriff’s Office for service with a courtesy copy to Henderson Behavioral Health’s Mobile Crisis Response Team. The Sheriff shall effect service upon the respondent as soon thereafter as possible on any day of the week and at any time of the day or night.

(5) Upon receipt of the order, but prior to taking the respondent into custody, the Broward Sheriff's Office, **may** in their discretion, coordinate a joint response with the Mobile Crisis Response Team at Henderson Behavioral Health, to perform an outpatient evaluation to determine whether the respondent meets criteria for an involuntary examination, or if community mental health services are a least restrictive means. If the outpatient evaluation establishes that the respondent does NOT appear to meet the criteria for further involuntary examination or placement, the examination is deemed complete.

(6) If an outpatient evaluation is not performed or there are no other less restrictive means available, the respondent shall be transported to the nearest receiving facility. The Broward Sheriff's Office is identified as the law enforcement agency within Broward County to transport the respondent to the nearest receiving facility. Pursuant to the Broward County Amended Transportation Plan, other municipal law enforcement agencies may also transport from their respective jurisdictions.

(7) This Administrative Order vacates and supersedes Administrative Order 2016-33-PRC.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, this 24th day of July, 2025.

/s/ Carol-Lisa Phillips  
Carol-Lisa Phillips, Chief Judge