



# Marchman Act FAQ

## 1) What is the Marchman Act?

The Marchman Act, Florida's substance abuse assessment and treatment statute, allows for a petition to be filed by a family member, guardian, or three citizens to obtain a court order for substance abuse assessment or treatment when the person has refused to voluntarily receive needed care.

## 2) How are voluntary and involuntary Marchman Act admissions different?

A voluntary admission is when a person who wishes to enter a facility for substance abuse assessment or treatment is willing to sign an application for admission. An involuntary admission is when there is a good faith reason the person meets the criteria for involuntary assessment or treatment and such a process is initiated by law enforcement, a physician, a court, a family member, or other eligible people.

## 3) Who can file a petition for an involuntary assessment, stabilization, or treatment?

In addition to a law enforcement officer's authority to take a person into Protective Custody, a physician's authority to cause an emergency admission, and a court's authority to order such admission, a person's spouse, guardian, relative, director of a licensed service provider, or any three adults who have personal knowledge of the person's substance abuse impairment can file a petition on an adult.

## 4) How is a Marchman Act petition filed?

If you have personal knowledge of the person's substance abuse impairment, along with other required criteria, and you are one of the people who are authorized to initiate a petition, you can file the petition during normal business hours in the Clerk of the Court's Office at the Courthouse.

## 5) How long can a person be held on an order for involuntary assessment and stabilization?

A person can be held in a residential setting for up to five (5) days. Within that time, the person must be released, transferred to voluntary status, or a petition for involuntary treatment must be filed with the court.

## 6) What can family bring the patient while he/she is on the unit (e.g., clothes, shoes, food, etc.)?

Patients are allowed to have three (3) changes of clothes. Clothing items may not include belts, strings, or under-wire bras for the safety of the client. Valuables, food, and hygiene products are prohibited. All items will be inspected and inventoried upon receipt.

## 7) Are visitors allowed?

Visitation is not permitted during the Marchman evaluation period. However, clients who continue to receive inpatient treatment after the initial evaluation period can become eligible for visitation. The client will be notified when they are able to receive visitors.

Visitors must be age 18 or older with a picture ID to visit and must be appropriately dressed. No bags, purses, or cellphones are permitted on the unit.

Visitation Hours are As Follows:

<b>ADULT VISITORS ONLY</b>	<b>Thursday 6:00pm-7:00pm</b>
	<b>Sunday 2:00pm-4:00pm</b>
<b>FAMILY VISTATION (CHILDREN PERMITTED)</b>	<b>Thursday 5:30pm-6:00pm</b>