



Baker Act FAQ

1) What is a Baker Act?

A Baker Act allows for involuntary examination or what some call emergency or involuntary commitment. It can be initiated by judges, law enforcement officers, physicians or mental health professionals. There must be evidence that the person: has a mental illness (as defined in the Baker Act) is a harm to self, harm to others, or is self-neglectful (as defined in the Baker Act.)

2) How long can someone be held on a Baker Act?

A Baker Act is involuntary examination of up to 72 hours. During this examination period, the psychiatrist may discharge at any time during the 72 hours if there is no evidence that the patient is a danger to themselves or others.

3) If I am voluntary, can I leave at any time?

If admitted on a voluntary basis, we are authorized by law to detain you without your consent for up to 24 hours. Once a request for discharge is submitted, our physicians have 24 hours to determine if further treatment is required.

5) What happens after the Baker Act comes to an end?

Those who continue to meet criteria for inpatient treatment will then be given the opportunity to sign in voluntarily. If not, the psychiatrist may initiate court proceedings for an involuntary placement.

6) What happens once I am discharged?

During your stay, a discharge planner will be assigned to work with you on planning for your release. Their objective is to connect you with a list of community resources as well as providing you with a follow up appointment for medication management, therapy, and other services as needed.

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

Patients are allowed to have 3 changes of clothes. Items may not include belts, strings, and 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.

9) Are Visitors allowed?

Visitation is permitted and highly recommended during the process. Visitors must be 18 and up, with a picture ID to visit and appropriately dressed. No bag, purses and cellphones are permitted on the unit.

Visitation Hours are As Follows:

ADULTS(Crisis Stabilization unit)	Tuesday & Thursday 6:00pm-7:00pm
Holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Memorial day, Labor day.)	Sundays &Holidays 2:30pm-4:00pm

Due to safety issues, children under the age of 16 cannot visit on the unit without prior authorization from Director of Nursing of Unit Supervisor. These accommodations are contingent on staff and room availability on unit.

CHILDREN(Crisis Stabilization unit)	Monday & Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm
Holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Memorial day, Labor day)	Saturdays &Holidays 2:30pm-4:00pm

Only guardians of child may visit during visitation hours. However, grandparents are permitted to visit with the guardians consent. Other family members may visit with permission from the child's treatment team and staff availability.