

Mental Health Department

George Edgecomb Courthouse

800 East Twiggs Street, Room 205

Tampa, Florida 33602

Telephone (813) 276-8100 – When prompted, please say “mental health,” then say “agent.”

Hours of Operation: Monday thru Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Website: www.hillsclerk.com

If filing **BEFORE 3 PM**, call the Clerk’s Office between 4 PM and 5 PM the same day to receive the judge’s ruling regarding the petition.

If filing **AFTER 3 PM**, call the Clerk’s Office the following business day after 8 am to receive the judge’s ruling regarding the petition.

PETITIONS

Baker Act (Petition for Ex-Parte Order for Involuntary Examination). This may be filed by anyone (does not require more than one person and they do not have to be related) with firsthand knowledge of the behaviors that are making this person a threat to themselves or someone else. This petition cannot be filed to extend the stay of someone that is already under a Baker Act. This petition is NOT for substance abuse issues. There will be no hearing. The Court will enter an order either granting, or denying, based solely on the information provided by the petitioner. **There are no filing fees.** Petitioner must bring photo ID.

Respondent must be in Hillsborough County.

Marchman Act (Petition for Involuntary Assessment and Petition for Involuntary Treatment). These petitions are for individuals who are not willing to voluntarily get an assessment or treatment, if recommended, for alcohol or drug abuse. If the **respondent is an adult**, a petition for involuntary services may be filed by the respondent’s spouse or legal guardian, any relative, a licensed service provider, or an adult who has direct personal knowledge of the substance abuse impairment and his or her prior course of assessment and treatment. If the **respondent is a minor**, a petition for involuntary treatment may be filed by a parent, legal guardian, or licensed service provider.

This is a two-step process. Upon the filing of the Petition for Involuntary Assessment and Stabilization, the Court will direct the Clerk to either set the matter for hearing, issue an Ex-Parte Pick-Up Order to have the Respondent assessed and stabilized without a hearing, or deny the petition based on the petition not meeting

the requirements under the Marchman Act. After the Respondent is assessed, the petitioner will be contacted by the service provider to pick up the assessment report. The **report must be brought to the Clerk's Office within 5 days from the date of the assessment report and the Petitioner will complete a Petition for Involuntary Treatment and file with the Court.** The same requirements as to petitioners also apply to this step of the process.

The Respondent will be served a copy of the petition and assessment report and the Court will conduct a hearing – typically within two weeks. At this hearing, the Respondent has the right to ask for legal representation and continue the hearing for witnesses to testify. If, after the hearing, the judge determines that treatment is appropriate or the Respondent has agreed to go to treatment. The Court will enter an order based on the recommendation of the assessor. **Respondent must be in Hillsborough County.**

FEES

There are no court fees associated with filing a petition. However, fees for treatment will be the responsibility of the Respondent. If the **Respondent is a juvenile**, the petitioner will be required to provide assistance in order to follow the court order. PLEASE NOTE: **Court Ordered treatment under the Marchman Act is NOT free.** While Providers offer a sliding fee scale, there will be costs associated with the Marchman Act treatment.

SERVICE

Please allow adequate time for service of the order as it may take several business days to complete.

HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gracepoint and Children's Crisis Services Administrative Office (813) 272-2244

ACTS Administrative Office (813) 246-4899

Florida Abuse Hotline (800) 962-2873

Hillsborough Abuse Hotline (crisis/alcohol) (813) 234-1234

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

In case of emergency: 911

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office: (813) 247-8200

Plant City Police: (813) 757-9200

Tampa Police: (813) 231-6130

Temple Terrace Police: (813) 989-7111