

MARCHMAN ACT

The Marchman Act provides for the involuntary assessment and stabilization of a person allegedly abusing substances such as drugs or alcohol. To initiate the Marchman Act contact the clerk of the civil court for information on how to file a petition.

Typically, one blood relative, spouse or 3 individuals not related by blood must file the petition. There is no fee to file the petition. A hearing is scheduled to order an assessment. A second hearing is scheduled 2 weeks later. If treatment is ordered, either residential or out-patient, the order will valid for 60 days from the date of the order.

BAKER ACT

The Baker Act is a tool to facilitate the proper care and treatment of mentally ill individuals in a dignified manner and to ensure the return of the patient to the community as soon as possible. Provisions of the act allow for the involuntary treatment of those individuals if very specific conditions are met, which may include the belief that a friend or family member is mentally ill and because of the illness is refusing examination and treatment by health care professionals, and if there is sufficient reason to believe that without care or treatment the person is likely to suffer from neglect and is a possible threat to himself or another person. To initiate a Baker Act proceeding contact the clerk of the civil court for information.