



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 15, 2020

TO: State of Florida Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

THROUGH: Rodney E. Moore, L.M.H.C.
Assistant Secretary, Substance Abuse and Mental Health

FROM: Matt Howard, Emergency Coordination Officer

SUBJECT: Transportation under the Baker Act and Marchman Act

In consideration of the current public health emergency and our mutual concern for the individuals we serve who are in crisis, we respectfully ask that law enforcement officers consider the coronavirus when transporting individuals for involuntary examination/admission under the Baker or Marchman Acts.

Specifically, any individuals who exhibit or verbalize any symptoms of CORVID-19 or verbalize that they may have been exposed to the virus, should be transported to a medical facility for emergency medical treatment. This is in line with sections 394.462(i), 397.6772(1) (a), and 397.6795 of the Florida Statutes.

This is necessary to mitigate potential infection of individuals being treated in Baker Act receiving facilities and substance use treatment agencies and to ensure individuals at risk are tested and treated timely. It is important to note that behavioral health facilities do not have the medical capacity to test and treat individuals for serious medical conditions.

We thank you in advance for your understanding. For questions please contact Heather Allman at (850) 717-4288 or at Heather.Allman@myflfamilies.com.

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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency