

**Wakulla County Schools**  
**Student Services Department**  
**Baker Act Procedures & School Re-entry**

**Baker Act Procedures**

Intervention begins when any staff member identifies or is made aware of a student's intent to commit bodily harm to self or others. The purpose of the Baker Act is to provide students in crisis with immediate access to mental health assessment and intervention services (Fla. Statute 394, 2012). A student qualifies for a Baker Act intervention if the student exhibits the intent to commit suicide, to inflict bodily harm to self or to other(s).

1. The person identifying that the student is in crisis should contact a school administrator or school counselor immediately. The student should never be unsupervised at any time. Supervision should be maintained until supervision is assumed by the school administrator/designee, resource officer, parent/guardian or emergency contact person.
2. If a student exhibits behavior that suggests imminent danger to self or others, the administrator/designee must contact the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or School Resource Officer (SRO)/law enforcement, who will assess the student to determine if a Baker Act is appropriate.
3. The LCSW or designee should notify the Director of Student Services assessments and Baker Acts.
4. If Baker Act is warranted, the following will occur:
  - a. Once the student has met the criteria for Baker Act, SRO law enforcement will follow Wakulla County Sheriff's department Baker Act protocol regarding transportation to the nearest designated child/adolescent facility.
  - b. The LCSW or SRO will attempt to contact the parent/guardian regarding the concerns about the student as soon as possible.
  - c. The LCSW or school administrator/designee will contact the Superintendent and Director of Student Services by the close of the same school day with information about the Baker Act.
  - d. The LCSW or school administrator/designee will complete the Suicide/Baker Act Intervention Checklist.
5. If Baker Act is NOT warranted, the following will occur if concerns of safety remain:
  - a. LCSW or School administrator/designee will attempt to contact parent/guardian as soon as possible and request that the parent/guardian come to the school to discuss concerns involving the safety of their child and/or others.
  - b. LCSW or School administrator/designee will complete a Parent Conference prior to the student leaving school. The LCSW or designee will make recommendations to the parent/guardian for further evaluations as well as provide contact information about the nearest crisis stabilization units as well as local physicians.

- c. The LCSW will contact the Superintendent and Director of Student Services Office by the close of the same school day with information pertaining to the assessment.
  - d. The LCSW or school administrator/designee will complete the Suicide/Baker Act Intervention Checklist.
6. If there are concerns that child abuse and/or neglect exists, the school administrator/designee will follow procedures for mandated child abuse/neglect reporting. **1-800-962-2873**

### **School Re-entry after a Baker Act**

The LCSW or school administrator/designee will facilitate the following re-entry procedures when a student has exited a Baker Act facility:

1. Facilitate a re-entry meeting with a team of student, parent/guardian, administrator/designee, school counselor, resource officer and any services providers.
2. During the meeting, attempt to obtain the **Parent Permission for Release of Information** form to communicate with the Baker Act facility.
3. Interview the parent to determine what outside agencies may be involved with student.
4. Inform the parent or additional resources that may be available in the community and make referrals as needed.
5. Obtain the needs of the student and develop complete the **Student School Safety Plan**.
6. Notify teachers when the student is returning.
7. Collaborate with school counselor to provide follow-up services to meet the student's needs (i.e. weekly check-in, monitoring mental health status, missed class work, grades, etc).