

CHAPTER 2023-198

House Bill No. 829

An act relating to the operation and administration of the Baker Act; amending s. 394.457, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families to provide specified information to certain individuals and organizations; requiring the department to maintain an information handbook and repository of answers to frequently asked questions; providing requirements for such handbook and repository; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 394.457, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

394.457 Operation and administration.—

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.—The department is responsible for:

(b)1. Informing individuals and organizations involved in implementing this part, including, but not limited to, law enforcement officers, qualified professionals, and service providers, The publication and distribution of an information handbook to facilitate understanding of the provisions of this part; the policies and procedures related to its effective involved in the implementation; their roles and of this part, and the responsibilities; and any other information necessary for its effective implementation. The department shall maintain: ~~of the various providers of services under this part.~~

a. An information handbook, which must be published and updated on the department's website annually by October 1.

b. A repository of answers to frequently asked questions, which must be published on the department's website and continually revised and expanded as necessary.

2. Supporting and facilitating ~~It shall stimulate~~ research by public and private agencies, institutions of higher learning, and hospitals in the interest of the elimination and amelioration of mental illness.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2023.