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## **Making Sure Your Residential Pool/Waterfront Property is Safe for Children**

Caregivers are encouraged to refer to the [2015 Consumer Product and Safety Commission Safety Barrier Guidelines for Residential Pools](#) booklet for guidance on how to ensure their residential pool/waterfront property is safe. This booklet is only a guide. You should check with your local Code Enforcement Agency to determine what local ordinances are required for your respective areas.

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### **Resources:**

[www.parents.com](http://www.parents.com)

[CDC.gov](http://CDC.gov)

Georgia Division of Family and Children policies require the following:

- Homes with an in-ground or above ground pool, or situation on a waterfront property – must adhere to the following general water safety guidelines:
  - Caregiver must know or learn how to swim. This swimming requirement must be within the first 60 days of

approval. Caregivers who newly acquire a pool must meet this requirement within 60 days.

- Caregivers must complete the CPR/First Aid training prior to approval.
- Complete training in a basic water rescue class during the first year of approval or as soon as the course is made available in the county or is within reasonable driving distance. A basic water rescue is designed to teach recognition, prevention, and response to water emergencies using non-swimming rescue methods.
- Enroll children in care, age three years and older, in a swimming class within one year of the date of placement.
- Ensure that the swimming pool or waterfront area meets any local and/or state ordinances.
- Ensure that the swimming pool and surrounding area are properly maintained and free from danger.
- Provide a cordless or pool phone, cellular phone, or poolside phone jack to eliminate the need to leave children unattended while answering the telephone indoors.
- Equip the swimming pool with lifesaving and flotation devices, such as reaching poles and ring buoys.
- Provide direct adult supervision in the swimming pool or water area at all times. Close adult supervision is the key to ensuring adequate water safety for children, even if a child knows how to swim.
- Ensure the inaccessibility of in-ground

or above ground swimming pools by isolating the pool from the home with a fence or through the use of a pool safety cover.

Please be sure to contact your Resource Development Case Manager to support you in making sure that your home meets the compliance standards.

### **Dry Drowning: Know the signs**

About one in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger, according to the CDC. In the U.S., nearly 400 pool and spa drownings happen every year. There are two types of drowning that can happen long after leaving the water: dry and secondary. Adults are at risk, too, but children are more susceptible.

In dry drowning, someone takes in a small amount of water through his or her nose and/or mouth, and it causes a spasm in the airway, causing it to close up. In secondary drowning, the little bit of water gets into the lungs and causes inflammation or swelling that makes it difficult or impossible for the body to transfer oxygen to carbon dioxide and vice versa. Dry drowning usually happens soon after exiting the water, but with secondary drowning, there can be a delay of up to 24 hours before the person shows signs of distress. Both can cause trouble breathing and, in worst-case scenarios, death.

### **Warning Signs:**

No matter your child's age, be on the lookout for:

- Coughing
- Increased "work of breathing."
- Sleepiness.
- Forgetfulness or change in behavior.
- Throwing up.

### **How to prevent:**

Dry drowning can be prevented by taking appropriate precautions around water.

- **Swim lessons.** Kids who are comfortable and skilled at moving around in the water are less likely to go under and take in water. Around age 4 is a good time to start. Please contact your local [YMCA](#), [Boys & Girls Club](#), [Red Cross](#) or Aquatic Center for swimming lessons held near you.
- **Supervision.** Monitor kids closely in and around the water, and enforce pool safety rules.
- **Water safety measures.** Children should wear flotation devices on boats; pools should have four-sided fencing around them, and you should never leave standing water where a child could get into it.

Ultimately the best preventative is to make sure your kids know how to swim. Also, be sure that an adult is present wherever kids are swimming, be it a pool, a lake, a river or the ocean.

Please do not reply to this email. For all further questions or inquiries, please email [877210KIDS@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:877210KIDS@dhs.ga.gov).