



## STATE OF GEORGIA


### Division of Family and Children Services

**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Bobby D. Cagle**  
Director

#### MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Resource Development Utilization Teams, County Directors, Regional Directors, District Directors

FROM: Candis Jones, CRRU Manager 

Date: June 14, 2016

RE: Foster Caregiver Water Safety Assessment

Resource Development Policy 14.19 outlines the requirements for DFCS and CPA foster homes that has access to a pool or sits on a waterfront property. In an effort to ensure compliance with the safety guidelines outlined in policy, it is required that the enclosed "[Foster Caregiver Water Safety Assessment](#)" be completed on each foster home that meets the aforementioned criteria. The enclosed "[Foster Caregiver Pool Safety Guidelines](#)" should be used as a quick reference for staff during the completion of the water safety assessment.

#### **Water Safety Assessment Home Visit**

A home visit must be conducted for the completion of this assessment, and the form must be uploaded into External Documents of the Home Information page. (*Indicate "Water Safety Assessment" in the comment section*). A contact narrative must also be entered to indicate the date of the completion of the home visit. During the visit, verifications must be obtained to validate completion of swimming courses for adults and age-eligible children as well as completion of basic water safety course for the adult caregivers. It should also be determined whether the CPR/First Aid training is up to date for all adult caregivers. If policy violations exist, or unsafe conditions are found, a corrective action plan must be implemented immediately. If the identified policy violation or safety facton cannot be immediately rectified, a plan of action must be documented and implemented to ensure the safety of all children in the home until the safety issue can be mitigated. Ongoing assessment of the identified safety issue must be conducted until resolution is reached.

#### **Dissemination of Materials to Caregivers**

Enclosed also is the U.S. Consumer Product and Safety Commission 2015 "Safety Barrier Guidelines for Residential Pools" booklet. This document must be provided to and reviewed with the caregivers at the time of the completion of the assessment. Dissimination of this material must also be reflected in the corresponding contact narrative. This same booklet can be referenced for guidance when conducting the water safety assessment home visit. If a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) is implemented, the caregiver should be provided a copy of such plan outlining the expectations of compliance. Failure to reach compliance of the water safety standards as outlined in the CAP may result in home closure.

**Water Safety Assessments must be completed no later than June 30, 2016, with corresponding documents/verifications uploaded, and contact narratives entered.**

Resource Development Utilization Team Leaders, or designee, must complete the attached "Caregiver Water Safety Assessment Tracking Form" at the completion of the assessments for their Region. These tracking forms must be sent to the Caregiver Recruitment and Retention Unit at [CRRU@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:CRRU@dhs.ga.gov) by July 8, 2016.

Enclosures

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