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Office of Environmental Health

Residential Pool Safety Notice

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT POOL SAFETY

The purpose of this notice is to educate residential pool* owners on the legal requirements of pool ownership and proper pool safety. Each year in Arizona, too many young children are victims of drowning or near drowning. The Arizona State Legislature recognized this threat to the health and safety of children and passed [A.R.S. § 36-1681](#) to prevent children from gaining unsupervised access to residential swimming pools. In [A.R.S. § 36-1681\(E\)](#), the Legislature requires that all pool owners receive the legal requirements of pool ownership and a safety notice explaining the Arizona Department of Health Services' recommendations on pool safety.

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POOL ENCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

At a residence with a swimming pool where one or more children under six years of age live in the residence:

A.R.S. § 36-1681 requires that a swimming pool be protected by an enclosure (wall, fence, or barrier) that surrounds the pool area. Unless a local code provides otherwise, the enclosure of a belowground or aboveground pool must:

- Entirely enclose the pool area;
- Be at least 5 feet high;
- Have no openings other than doors or gates, through which an object 4 inches in diameter can pass;
- Have no openings, handholds, or footholds accessible from the exterior side that can be used to climb the barrier; and
- Be at least 20 inches from the water's edge.

If, however, a residence or living area makes up part of the enclosure required by A.R.S. § 36-1681(B), there must be:

- A wall, fence, or barrier located between the swimming pool or other contained body of water and the residence or living area that:
 - Has a height of at least four feet;
 - Has no openings through which a spherical object four inches in diameter can pass;
 - Has a gate that opens outward from the pool and is self-closing and self-latching;
 - Has no openings, handholds, or footholds accessible from the exterior side of the enclosure that can be used to climb the wall, fence, or barrier; and
 - Is at a distance of at least twenty inches from the water's edge;
- A motorized safety pool cover that requires a key switch and meets the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards in F1346-91 (www.astm.org);
- For each door or window in the residence or living area that has direct access to the pool:
 - A self-latching device that is located not less than fifty-four inches above the floor; and
 - Either a screwed in wire mesh screen covering a dwelling or guest room window or a keyed lock that prevents a dwelling or guest room window from opening more than four inches; or
- For an aboveground swimming pool, non-climbable exterior sides which are a

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