

Watch Kids Around Water

Safety Rules for 24-Hour Residential Care

Swimming Pools

- ◆ Keep at least two lifesaving devices on hand at all times.
- ◆ Keep pools well maintained and drains covered with grates in good repair.
- ◆ Caregivers can see the entire swimming area and bottom of the pool at all times.
- ◆ Keep pool chemicals, pumps, and machinery out of the reach of children.
- ◆ Pool pump and filtering systems have an emergency shut off switch.
- ◆ Furniture or equipment can't be used to scale a pool fence or release a lock.
- ◆ Lock all doors leading to the pool area and secure hot tubs with locking covers or fences.
- ◆ Remove pool covers completely when in use.
- ◆ Licensed General Residential Operations have pool fences at least 6' high with self-closing and latching gates (locks 60 inches from ground) that are locked when the pool is not in use.
- ◆ Pools at Foster Homes, have fences at least 4' high with self-closing, self-latching gates that are locked when not in use.
- ◆ Keep children in designated swimming areas of bodies of water like lakes, ponds, or creeks.
- ◆ Caregiver ratios for ALL water activities are based on the youngest child in care.
- ◆ Wading pools (2' of water or less) are drained and sanitized daily after use and stored empty and out of the reach of children.

Other rules for General Residential Operations:

- ◆ A certified lifeguard is on duty at all times during swimming activities.
- ◆ Above and in-ground pools meet the same safety guidelines.
- ◆ Boats and equipment are in good repair. Boating activities consider the skill and abilities of each child and hazards such as water and air temperature and the size and conditions of the body of water.

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Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

May 2012 Stock No. P20887-0000