



Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Water Hazard/Pool Safety Assessment Tool

Instructions: This form is designed to be used by the Department of Children's Services and Private Provider Contract Agencies to document/assess the safety of pools / water hazards on the foster parent or non-custodial placement's property. Include a safety plan with form Non-custodial Expedited Placement Assessment Summary or Home Safety Checklist to address concerns and non-compliance attaching this document.

Placement Name: _____ Assessor's Name: _____ Date: _____

Inground or Above Ground Pools:

- ☐ The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches above finished ground level measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. This includes the top of the pool structure for above ground pools.
- ☐ The maximum vertical clearance between finished ground level and the barrier shall be **2 inches** measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool.
- ☐ Where the barrier is mounted on the pool structure, the opening between the top surface of the pool frame and the bottom of the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.
- ☐ The fence cannot be easily climbed up or climbed through (not composed of horizontal boards on the outside, having handholds or protrusions if made of stone or masonry, having holes in the fence that a 4-inch sphere could fit through)
- ☐ Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width. Decorative cutouts shall not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width.
- ☐ Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or more, spacing between the vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches. Decorative cutouts shall not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width.
- ☐ Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 1-1/4-inch square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1-3/4 inches.
- ☐ Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be not more than 1-3/4 inches.
- ☐ Pedestrian access gates comply with the requirements above, open away from the pool, are self-closing, and have a self-latching device.
- ☐ Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate: (a) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate; and (b) the gate and barrier shall not have an opening greater than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
- ☐ Where a wall of a dwelling unit serves as part of part of the barrier and contains a door that provides direct access to the pool, one of the following shall apply:
 - Equipped with a functioning door alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and its screen, if present, are opened. The audible warning shall commence not more than 7 seconds after the door and door screen, if present, are opened and shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds. The alarm shall have a minimum sound pressure rating of 85 Db at 10 feet and the sound of the alarm shall be distinctive from other household sounds such as smoke alarms, telephones, and doorbells. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm shall be equipped with manual means, such as touchpads or switches, to deactivate temporarily the

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CS-4203, 05/21



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alarm for a single opening from either direction. Such deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation touchpads or switches shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door

- A self-closing latching device that is at least 54 inches above the floor. Swinging doors shall open away from the pool area.
- The pool has a power safety cover where in a closed position, the cover shall be capable of holding a weight of 485 pounds, shall not have any openings that allow passage of a 4-1/2 inch sphere and shall incorporate a system to drain standing water that collects on the cover. The cover control switch shall be permanently installed in accordance with NFPA 70 listed in chapter 35 and be key operated and of a spring loaded or momentary contact type. Where the switch is released, the operation of the cover shall stop instantly and be capable of reversing direction immediately. The switch shall be in the line of sight of the complete pool cover

- ☐ Where an above ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a fixed or removable ladder or steps, the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of items above. A removable ladder shall not constitute an acceptable alternative to enclosure requirements.
- ☐ The pool is equipped with a water safety alarm.
- ☐ The pool is equipped with a life saving device such as a ring buoy.
- ☐ Prohibited locations: Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

Hot Tub/Spa:

- ☐ Hot Tub/Spa is equipped with a cover that is always locked when not in use.
- ☐ Non-Portable hot tub/spa is equipped with a functioning water safety alarm.

Are there city/county regulations in which to comply? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, is the home compliant? Yes ☐ No ☐

Attach city/county regulations.

Other water safety hazards:

Describe water hazard(s) and safety measures in place.