



GLENN COUNTY PLANNING & PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

Daniel A. Obermeyer, Director



SWIMMING POOL BARRIERS

The Swimming Pool Safety Act, which became effective throughout California on January 1, 1998, offers several options to swimming pool owners for protecting small children from drowning. **Any one** of the following five options must be installed in every new swimming pool at a single-family home.

- 1) The pool must be isolated from access to a home by an enclosure that meets all of the following requirements:
 - a) Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool, and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
 - b) A minimum height of 60 inches.
 - c) A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of two inches.
 - d) Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than four inches in diameter.
 - e) An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities, or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over.
- 2) An approved pool safety cover which has been listed as complying with ASTM standard F1346-91.
- 3) The residence must be equipped with exit alarms on those doors providing direct access to the pool. Exit alarms are devices that make audible, continuous alarm sounds when the door is opened or is left ajar. They may be battery operated or may be connected to the electrical wiring of the building.
- 4) All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool must be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor.
- 5) Compliance with Glenn County's pool barrier ordinance which had been "grandfathered in" by this new legislation:
 - a) The pool must be surrounded by a barrier which is at least 54" (4 ½') high measured from the outside of the enclosure. Other than gates and doors when open, it can't have any openings more than 4" wide.
 - b) Gates and doors must be self-closing and self-latching and the latch release must be at least 48" (4') above the standing surface outside the barrier. There are two exceptions to these requirements:
 - i) If the wall of a house is used as part of the barrier, doors into the house need not meet either of these requirements. However, doors into garages and other such areas (attached to the house or detached) must meet both requirements.
 - ii) Vehicle gates may be kept locked rather than be self-closing and self-latching. This does not apply to pedestrian gates or garage doors.

One of these pool safety options must be in place before the pool can be filled with water.