



CA

**YEAR-ROUND/DAILY REMINDER OF WATER
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND MEASURES**



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:
New Water Safety Guidance Released by CCLD**



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YEAR-ROUND/DAILY REMINDER OF WATER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND MEASURES

New Water Safety Guidance Released by CCLD:

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) has issued a new Provider Information Notice (PIN 24-08-CCLD) titled “YEAR-ROUND/DAILY REMINDER OF WATER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND MEASURES”. This notice is crucial for ensuring the safety of children and clients near bodies of water.

Who Should Read This?

- All Child Care Licensees and Providers
- All Children’s Residential Licensees
- All Foster Family Agency Approved Resource Families
- All Child Care and Children’s Residential Program Staff

PIN 24-08-CCLD offers specific guidance on water safety for all Child Care and Children’s Residential licensees and providers, as well as Foster Family Agency (FFA) approved homes. The goal is to remind providers to be proactive about water safety and ensure all requirements are met whenever children or clients are near water.

[Access the Full Notice: You can view or download the full PIN 24-08-CCLD by clicking here.](#)

For previous PINs, visit the [CCLD website](#).

Questions? If you have any questions about this PIN, please contact your local [Child Care Licensing Regional Office](#) or your local [Children’s Residential Program Regional Office](#).



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Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) reminds all Child Care and Children's Residential licensees and providers, and FFA approved homes to exercise serious caution in the supervision of children around bodies of water. Providers must also ensure they follow all water safety licensing requirements. According to the California, drowning is one of the most common causes of unintentional deaths worldwide. In California, **drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths of children under the age of five and children with developmental delays.** Drowning can happen suddenly and silently, even in areas with as little as two inches of water.

According to water safety experts, the color of a child's swimsuit can play a role in water safety. The hue of swimwear may influence how visible a child is under water making it easier, or more difficult, to spot a child in an emergency situation. If a child's swimwear matches or is similar to the same colors of the water or the environment they are in, the child may blend in and be difficult to see. As a best practice, licensees and families should encourage the use of bright or neon colored swimwear. **Experts emphasize that while bright swimsuits aid in visibility, effective supervision and other safety measures are always essential.**



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Water Safety Requirements and Additional Considerations

Swimming and playing in the water are fun, but these activities require heightened supervision due to the risk associated with aquatic activities. In addition, **it is important to note water safety precautions are important year-round.** Below are several requirements and considerations specific to water safety and ensuring bodies of water are properly secured. Citations to relevant regulations and statutes are referenced at the end of the list below, however, this is not a complete list of all relevant legal requirements applicable to you as a licensee and/or care provider. Please review all regulations and statutes that apply to your licensed or approved facility or home.

- Never leave a pool area unattended when children are present. Caregivers must always be present and constantly supervising children when in or near bodies of water, no matter the circumstance. Water safety also includes infants and small children when in the bathtub.
- Conduct an outdoor safety check daily by walking around the facility premises before children are allowed outside. This includes inspecting covers and fencing to ensure all bodies of water are inaccessible.
- At the end of outside play time or recess, ensure children are not left behind.



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- Install and maintain enclosures according to the manufacturer's specifications and Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 115923, which requires enclosures to have all of the following characteristics:
 - o 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.
 - o A minimum height of 60 inches.
 - o A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of two inches.
 - o Gaps or voids, if any, shall not allow passage of a sphere equal or greater than four inches in diameter.
 - o 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.
- Ensure that all entrances and exits to a pool area or body of water are closed at all times.
- Remove toys from pools and utilize pool and door alarms.
- Always maintain the proper adult to child ratios and anticipate the need for an adult to remove themselves for any reason, including tending to a child's illness, injury, or bathroom needs. Please see the regulations and statutes below for adult to child water activity ratios pertaining to your specific facility or home type.



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- Empty wading pools after each use.
- Remember that any child can get hurt or otherwise require assistance in the water despite wearing a floatation device, having taken swimming lessons, or being placed in a bath seat or ring. These items/circumstances are never a substitute for constant adult supervision.
- Consider other practical health and safety practices during water activities such as using sunscreen, teaching children to stay away from drains and other openings that cause suction, using water diapers for small children, wear protective footwear, and avoiding running on wet surfaces to prevent slipping.
- Be cautious of all natural bodies of water such as creeks, rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Water currents and other hazards can cause drowning even among strong swimmers



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Non-exhaustive list of Regulations and Statutes Relating to Water Safety Requirements

For Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes

Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (22 CCR) sections include the following:

- 22 CCR 101216.6, Staffing for Water Activities. Child Care Center staffing requirements for pools, portable pools, and other potentially dangerous bodies of water, such as lakes and rivers.
- 22 CCR 101238(e), Buildings and Grounds. Child Care Center pool inaccessibility requirements.
- 22 CCR 101238.5, Wading Pools. Child Care Center requirements for inflatable or other portable plastic wading pools.
- 22 CCR 101416.8, Staffing for Infant Water Activities. Child Care Center staffing requirements for infant water activities.
- 22 CCR 102417(g)(5), Operation of a Family Child Care Home. Pool inaccessibility requirements for Family Child Care Homes.
- 22 CCR 100000.17, Training Requirements for Child Care Providers. Pediatric first aid and CPR requirements for licensed child care facilities.



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For Children's Residential providers

The following regulations apply to: Small Family Homes

- Title 22 CCR Personnel Requirements section 80065(e) through (e)(2) – adult supervision must be provided at all times when children are using a pool or body of water.
- Title 22 CCR Health Related Services section 80075(f) – first aid training and CPR requirements.
 - o In addition, Title 22 CCR Section 83075(f) inclusive applies.
- Title 22 CCR Buildings and Grounds section 80087(e)(1) & (2) and (f) – inaccessibility requirements when pools and other bodies of water are on the property.
- Title 22 CCR Outdoor Activity Space section 83087.2 applies.

Group Homes

(Includes Community Treatment Facilities, Enhanced Behavioral Supports Homes, Community Crisis Homes, and Youth Homelessness Prevention Centers (YHPC))

- Title 22 CCR Personnel Requirements section 80065(e) through (e)(2) – adult supervision must be provided at all times when children are using a pool or body of water.



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- Title 22 CCR Health Related Services section 80075(f) – first aid training and CPR requirements.
 - o This section does not apply to YHPC; instead YHPC Interim Licensing Standards section 84575(c) shall apply.

- Title 22 CCR Buildings and Grounds section 80087(e)(1) & (2) and (f) – inaccessibility requirements when pools and other bodies of water are on the property.
 - o In addition, Section 84187(c) applies to Community Treatment Facilities.

- Title 22 CCR Outdoor Activity Space section 84087.2(a)(3)(4) & (5)
 - o This section does not apply to YHPC; instead, YHPC Interim Licensing Standards section 84587.2 shall apply.

Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs

- Title 22 CCR Personnel Requirements section 80065(e) through (e)(2) – adult supervision must be provided at all times when children are using a pool or body of water.

- Title 22 CCR Health Related Services section 80075(f) – first aid training and CPR requirements. PIN 24-08-CCLD Page 5

- Title 22 CCR Buildings and Grounds section 80087(e)(1) & (2) and (f) – inaccessibility requirements when pools and other bodies of water are on the property.

- STRTP ILS v5 Outdoor Activity Space section 87087.2(a)(3) and (4) inclusive





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Transitional Housing Placement Programs

- Title 22 CCR Health Related Services section 86175(c)(2) through (4) – first aid training and CPR requirements.

Crisis Nurseries

- Title 22 CCR Personnel Requirements section 86565(e) and (f) inclusive – adult supervision, minimum ratio of staff to child, and water certification is required when children are in or near a pool or body of water.
- Title 22 CCR Health Related Services section 86575(h) inclusive – first aid training and CPR requirements.
- Title 22 CCR Buildings and Grounds section 86587(e) inclusive and (f).

Resource Families and Foster Family Agencies

- Title 22 CCR Personnel Requirements section 80065(e) through (e)(2) – adult supervision must be provided at all times when children are using a pool or body of water.
- Title 22 CCR Health Related Services section 80075(f) – first aid training and CPR requirements.
 - o In addition, FFA ILS v6 and section 88372(a) inclusive applies
- Title 22 CCR Buildings and Grounds section 80087(e)(1) & (2) and (f) – inaccessibility requirements when pools and other bodies of water are on the property.



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- [FFA ILS v6 Home Environment Assessment](#) section 88331.2(a)(2)(A)4
- [FFA ILS v6 Outdoor Activity Space](#) section 88487.2(d)(1) through (5) – inaccessibility requirements when pools and other bodies of water are on the property.

Additional Resources

Below is a collection of useful information, safety tips and posters regarding Drowning Prevention from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the California Department of Developmental Services (CDDS) websites.

- [CDSS Media Center, Drowning Prevention](#)
- [CDDS Drowning Prevention PIN 24-08-CCLD Page 6](#)
- [Drowning Prevention Infographic Poster](#)
- [Drowning Prevention Infographic Poster \(Spanish\)](#)

Please check out the following Red Cross resource links to learn more [water safety tips](#), sign up for an [online water safety course for parents and caregivers](#), locate [swimming lessons within your community](#) and obtain [CPR and First Aid certification](#).

If you have any questions about this PIN, please contact your local [Child Care Licensing Regional Office](#) or your local [Children's Residential Program Regional Office](#)



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