

Home Swimming Pools Can Be Deadly Traps for Children

Far too many children keep losing their lives in home swimming pools. A three-year-old little boy in the Vineyard area of south Sacramento recently died after being left alone in a swimming pool while a family member went inside the house.

<http://www.sacbee.com/ourregion/story/2015157.html> Tragedies like these can only be avoided if parents and other caregivers make a firm decision to *never* leave a child unattended in a pool.

Create Family Pool Safety Rules and Make Everyone Obey Them

If you believe the phone is ringing, someone is at your front door or another matter requires your immediate attention, help your children out of the pool and take them with you into your home or apartment. *Explain ahead of time* that swimming is a privilege and one of your family's pool safety rules requires all children to get out of the pool and accompany you when you must go back inside.

Government Statistics Clearly Indicate Supervision is Critical

Annual statistics kept by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reveal that children age 14 and younger account for one in every four fatal drowning victims. <http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.htm> Furthermore, "for every child who dies from drowning, another four received emergency department care for nonfatal submersion injuries."

<http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/waterinjuries->

[factsheet.htm](#) It's critical to remember that being submersed under water for even a limited period of time can cause permanent brain injuries.

Although Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studies indicate that children's drowning deaths and injuries have decreased, "fatal drowning remains the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages one to fourteen years." <http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.htm> Local police forces often search neighborhood pools first after a child goes missing since so many children feel drawn like magnets to swimming pools.

Tips for Keeping Children Safe in Your Home Pool

- **Supervision.** It just takes a second for a child to slip on the pavement and fall to the bottom of a pool. You need to be *fully present* to offer *immediate* assistance. Don't make the mistake of reading or visiting with a friend too intently (either over a cell phone or in person). Your child's life is too precious for you to be doing something else.
- Make sure all of your children take comprehensive **swimming lessons** at the earliest possible age. Reasonable fees can be found at community pools. Contact your city's recreation department for more information about such lessons.
- Learn how to give cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (**CPR**). Require your older children to learn how to administer it as well since they may need it when swimming elsewhere. Your ability to administer this lifesaving procedure can make or break your child's chances of living until the paramedics arrive.

- So-called “**flotation devices**” **are not foolproof**. *Never* assume that any type of “flotation” device will keep your child safe.
- **Build a safe fence**, at least four feet tall, around the pool inside your yard. Install a lock that opens outwards and is too high up for children to reach it.
<http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.htm> You must do everything you can to discourage your children and others in the neighborhood from swimming when no one is around to supervise them.
- Once the swimming season is over in your part of the country, make sure you **buy the best type of pool cover possible** so that no one can gain access to the pool. Consider buying the type of cover that can even slide into place over the pool *whenever* you don’t want others to use it.

Should you or anyone you know suffer a swimming-related injury, we hope you’ll contact our firm so we can try and help you. We know how to protect your rights and obtain the full financial recovery you’re entitled to as an injured party. Let us put our years of experience to work for you.