



September, 2007

Swimming Pool

Hillsborough County's Minimum Standards Ordinance defines a "swimming pool" as any structure, located in a residential area, that is intended for swimming or recreational bathing and contains water over 24 inches deep, including, but not limited to, in-ground, aboveground, and on-ground swimming pools; hot tubs; and non-portable spas.

How can I report a suspected violation?

Suspected violations can be reported to the Code Enforcement Department in several ways:

- 10119 Windhorst Rd.
Tampa, FL 33619
- 410 SE 30th St
Ruskin, FL 33570
- 813-274-6600
- Online
www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce

CODE ENFORCEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH

This is a monthly electronic newsletter by the Hillsborough County Code Enforcement. If you have comments, or wish to receive this newsletter via e-mail, call 813-274-6675 or e-mail greenkj@hillsboroughcounty.org



Swimming Pools



Hillsborough County's Minimum Standards Ordinance 04-18 requires that all pools be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, and that all pools be secured from unauthorized entry. These requirements apply to all pools regardless of when the pool was constructed, and exist to protect the health and safety of all Hillsborough County.

Q How must a swimming pool be "secured"?

Hillsborough County requires that all swimming pools be enclosed with a four foot fence, equipped with self closing, self latching gates. The fence should be designed and maintained in a way that makes the pool inaccessible to young children, and the gate should positively close when released from six inches from the gatepost.



Q What is the penalty?

When violations of this nature are discovered, they are given the highest of priorities. Violators are given a reasonable period of time to comply. Then, if compliance is not achieved, the case is forwarded to the Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Board or Special Magistrate. Anyone found guilty at these hearings faces a fine of up to \$1,000 **for each day** that the violation continues to exist. This fine is assessed as a lien against all properties owned by the violator, and after running for ninety days the



matter is turned over to the Hillsborough County Attorney's office where a determination is made on foreclosure.

Q Why regulate pool enclosures and sanitation?

The sanitation of swimming pools is regulated not only to prevent accidental drowning, but also to stem the breeding of disease carrying insects such as mosquitoes. Diseases transmitted by mosquitoes include Eastern equine encephalitis, Japanese encephalitis, La Crosse encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, West Nile virus, Western equine encephalitis, Dengue Fever, Malaria, Rift Valley Fever, and Yellow Fever.



In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that while the incidents of accidental drowning have slowly declined, drowning remains the second leading cause of death among children ages one through fourteen. Furthermore, among children ages one to four years, most drownings occur in residential swimming pools.

Q Can I remain anonymous when registering a complaint?

Yes. We do not require that you provide any personal information when registering your complaint. Remember that all information you choose to provide to the County, including names, phone numbers, or email addresses, is subject to the Public Record Laws. In other words, we must provide this information to anyone who asks for it. If you wish to remain completely anonymous, do not provide your personal information.

Q What do I do if I've received a notice of violation?

If you have any questions about what is required of you to achieve compliance with Hillsborough County's Code, please contact the Investigator assigned to your case. The Investigator's name is listed at the bottom of the notice you received. The goal of Code Enforcement is to preserve the quality and value of public and private property, and maintain a high standard of living by eliminating conditions that threaten the life, health, safety, and general welfare of the public. The department recognizes that this goal is most effectively achieved through the education of, and cooperation with, the citizens of Hillsborough County.