

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act

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Practice Area: Community Associations

Do you have a pool at your association? If so, you need to be aware of a new federal law regarding pool safety.

On December 19, 2007, President Bush signed the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. Virginia Baker was the granddaughter of former Secretary of State James Baker. She died when she was trapped by the suction of the pool drain at a neighbor's pool party. She was one of 761 children aged 14 and under who died in pool-related drownings in 2004. Your association should comply with this new law not only because of the penalties for violating the law, but also for the safety of your members and guests.

The new pool safety act requires all public pools and spas, including those in community associations, to utilize certain entrapment protection implements that comply with requirements of the American National Standards Institute or the American Society of Engineers. Pools or spas with a single main drain (other than a blockable drain) must have one or more of the following devices: A safety vacuum release system, a suction-limiting vent system, a gravity drainage system, an automatic pump shut-off system, a drain disablement system, or another system approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to reduce the risk of entrapment.

Your association has until December 2008 to comply with these new requirements. But why wait?

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