

Issues and Questions to Consider When Conducting Child Drowning Case Review Checklist

Data Sources

- Agencies that collected information at the scene
- Case notes, pictures and diagrams of scene

Child/Victim

- Age, Gender, Race/Ethnicity
- Home Address
- Date, time and place of death
- Medical History
- Activity and location of child when last seen
- Alone or playing with other children
- Length of time missing
- Type of clothing worn by victim when found
- Use of flotation device, type, Coast Guard approved?
- Specifics on how child gained access to pool/spa
- Previous risk behaviors (opening doors, etc)
- Swim ability, history of swim lessons

Supervisor/Supervision Information

- Intensity and level of supervision and by whom
- Primary person/s responsible for supervision of child
- Location of supervisor at time of incident
- Supervisor impaired, distracted and if so, how
- Supervisor drinking/using drugs
- Relationship to child, frequency of supervising child
- Language of supervisor/s
- Estimated time since child last seen by supervisor
- If child out of sight, where thought child was
- Issues related to multiple or child supervisors
- Supervisor knowledge of CPR
- Supervisor swim ability

Incident Information

- Date, Time and Address
- Site (i.e. child's home, child care, community pool, etc)
- Type of dwelling (i.e. single family, apt, condo)
- Rental or HUD housing
- Length of time owner/leasee lived at address
- If not at child's home, reason child at location
- # of adults/children at location when incident occurred
- Alcohol and/or drug use evident at time of event
- Unusual or special event or circumstances
- Antecedent activities relevant to incident

Water Source Information

- Type of pool /spa (in-ground, inflatable, attached)
- Water clarity, temperature
- If spa, water obscured by jet bubbles
- Drain entrapment
- Pool use day of incident, by whom
- How often did child use this pool/spa?
- Toys or other objects in water
- Other toys or objects near pool
- Year pool was built/remodeled
- History of code violations

Barrier / Access Information

- Property line fence, type, height, condition
- Direct access from house /garage to pool/spa?
- If fence between the house/garage and pool/spa, type, height, condition, partial or isolation
- Gates leading to pool/spa, type (self-closing, self-latching, open out,), position (open, closed), working condition
- If pool cover, type, in use
- Door/window alarms, type, functional, in use
- Other barriers/measures, condition and use
- Room from which child exited house
- Explain how victim got through barrier(s)/accessed pool

Family / Social History

- Household composition for child
- Language/s spoken
- Parents' marital status
- If divorced or separated, extent of parent contact with child
- History of maltreatment, prior or open CAR
- Parent/supervisor substance abuse/criminal history

Emergency Response, Treatment and Outcomes

- Rescue equipment/phone near pool/spa
- Who found child and where
- Delay in pulling child from pool or initiating CPR
- Estimated time of submersion
- 911 called
- CPR by whom, know CPR
- Transport by whom
- Course of treatment, where and outcome
- Child Abuse Referral to CPS for this incident
- Follow-up actions taken by public agency, parents or pool owners after event?