

Standard Operating Procedures
Aquatics Division

Supervision Ratios in Aquatic Facilities			
Issued By:	James Washington, Chief, Aquatics Division	Date Issued:	Thursday, July 30, 15 <small>(This SOP supersedes any previously issued guidance)</small>

Policy Statement:

With the safety of our guests as the highest priority, DPR will ensure that children under 13 years of age are properly supervised by a parent/guardian while using an aquatic facility.

Guidelines:

1. At all times, children under the age of thirteen (13) must be accompanied by an adult. 2. All parent/guardians/group leaders must be over the age 18.
3. DPR employees have the discretion to verify the ages of guests by asking for proof of age. 4. DPR employees have the discretion to designate a guest as a “swimmer” or “non-swimmer” based on the guest’s demonstrated ability.
5. All non-swimmers must be in water below their heads.
6. Lifejackets are strongly recommended for all non-swimmers (they are free and available at all DPR aquatic facilities).
7. Non-swimmers may not swim without being in direct arms reach of a parent or guardian in the pool area and in the water.
8. For guests with children under the age of six (6), the ratio may not exceed three (3) children to one (1) parent/guardian.
9. For guests with all children over the age of six (6), the ratio may not exceed six (6) children to one parent/guardian.
10. For groups and summer camps, the ratio of swimmers may not exceed eight (8) swimmers to one (1) adult provided, however, that swimmers are grouped by swimming ability. 11. For groups or camps of non-swimmers, the ratio shall be the same as guidelines eight (8) and nine (9) above.
12. Notwithstanding the guidelines above, DPR employees shall ensure a one (1) adult to one (1) child ratio for children ages zero (0) to twenty four (24) months for DPR programs led by DPR employees.

Procedures:

1. Upon arrival at the facility, all guests must check in with staff that will ensure the proper ratio is in place.
2. DPR employees have the discretion to ask guests to leave the facility due to unsafe behavior, failure to obey lifeguard instructions, or the inability of an adult to control a child’s behavior.