



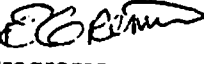
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

HSEF 99-010

DATE: March 30, 1999

TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators  
Environmental Health and Engineering Directors

THROUGH: Sharon Heber, M.P.H., Director  
Division of Environmental Health

FROM: Eric J. Grimm, Chief   
Bureau of Facility Programs

SUBJECT: Baptismal Pools

INFORMATION ONLY

We have received some questions involving the regulation of church and synagogue baptismal pools. We have reviewed the statute along with our legal council, Amy Jones, and we agree that Chapter 514, F.S., does not cover these structures.

Public swimming pools and public pools are defined in Chapter 514, F.S., paragraph (2) as, "a watertight structure of concrete, masonry, or other approved materials which is located either indoors or outdoors, used for bathing or swimming by humans". Baptismal pools are not used for bathing or swimming and, therefore, are not to be regulated under Chapter 514, F.S. This does not mean that swimming pools at churches used for both swimming and baptismal practices are exempted from regulation. Only structures that are used strictly for baptismal or similar functions are exempt.

We hope that this clarifies the situation and is a help to you in your work. If you have any questions concerning this letter, you may contact Pad Juarez at (850) 487-0004 or SC 277-0004.

cc: Swimming Pool Advisory Board

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APR 08 1999

Environmental Health  
BROWARD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT