

TOWNSHIP OF WHITPAIN

ORDINANCE NO. 428

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITPAIN AT PART II [GENERAL LEGISLATION], CHAPTER 71 [BUILDING CONSTRUCTION], PART 4 [SWIMMING POOLS], BY AMENDING AND RESTATING ARTICLE XI [SAFETY DEVICES] TO ADOPT THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA CODE

CERTIFICATION

I, ERIC TRAUB, BEING DULY SWORN ACCORDING TO LAW, DEPOSE AND SAY THAT I AM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER IN WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA AND THAT ATTACHED HERETO IS A TRUE AND COMPLETE CORRECT COPY OF ORDINANCE NO. 428.



Eric Traub, Township Manager

November 19, 2025

ENACTED: November 18, 2025

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WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Whitpain Township is duly empowered by the Second Class Township Code, 53 P.S. § 65101, *et seq.*, to enact certain regulations relating to the public health, safety welfare of the residents of Whitpain Township;

WHEREAS, The Second Class Township Code authorizes the Board of Supervisors to make, amend and adopt amendments to the Whitpain Code of Ordinances, as amended, that are consistent with the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth that it deems necessary for the proper management and control of the Township and the best interests of its residents; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of Whitpain Township have determined that certain amendments to the Whitpain Township Code of Ordinances, as amended, are required for the orderly administration of the laws of Whitpain Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors that the Township's Code is amended as follows:

SECTION 1. **Repeal and Replacement of 71 [Building Construction] Part 4 [Swimming Pools], Article IX [Safety Devices]**

Chapter 71 [Building Construction] Part 4 [Swimming Pools], Article IX [Safety Devices] is hereby repealed and replaced in its entirety as set forth in Exhibit "A" hereto.

SECTION 2. **Repeal and Ratification.**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith or in conflict with any of the specific terms enacted hereby, to the extent of said inconsistencies or conflicts, are hereby specifically repealed. Any other terms and provisions of the Township's Code unaffected by this Ordinance are hereby reaffirmed and ratified.


SECTION 3. **Severability.**

Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase in this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and affect, and for this reason the provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable.

SECTION 4. **Effective Date.**

This Ordinance shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED this 18th day of November 2025, by the
Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors.

**WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
SCOTT M. BADAMI, *Chair*

[Seal]

Attested by:

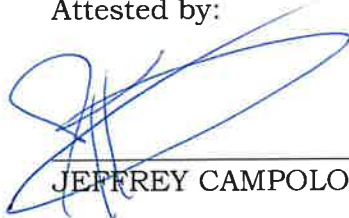

JEFFREY CAMPOLONGO, *Secretary*

Exhibit “A”

Chapter 71 [Building Construction]

Part 4 [Swimming Pools]

Article XI [Safety Devices]

71-27 Adoption of and Amendments to the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code.

A. **Adoption.** There is hereby adopted by the Township of Whitpain for the purposes of prescribing regulations governing fire and life preservation that certain code known as the "2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code," being particularly the first printing thereof and the whole thereof, including appendices; B, C, save and except such portions as are hereinafter deleted, modified and amended by § 71-27 of this Article, and any subsequent amendment, revision, supplement, edition, update or successor code as may be issued, published, made effective or referenced, as well as Ordinance No. 71-27, of which code not less than three copies have and now are filed in the office of the Secretary of the Township of Whitpain, and the same are hereby adopted and incorporated as if set out at length herein, and the date on which this article shall take effect the provisions thereof shall be controlling within the limits of the Township of Whitpain.

B. **Amendments.** There are hereby added to the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code the following modifications. Changes from the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code 2018 to the Swimming Pool and Spa Code of Whitpain Township are as follows:

1. Chapter 1, Section 101.2 insert " Whitpain Township."
2. Chapter 3, Section 305 Barrier Requirements, shall be revised and amended to read as follows:

305.1 General. The provisions of this section shall apply to the design of barriers for restricting entry into areas having pools and spas.

305.2 Outdoor swimming pools and spas. Outdoor pools and spas and indoor swimming pools shall be surrounded by a barrier that complies with Sections 305.2.1 through 305.7.

305.2.1 Barrier height and clearances. Barrier heights and clearances shall be in accordance with all of the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade where measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the pool or spa. Such height shall exist around the entire perimeter of the barrier and for a distance of 3 feet (914 mm) measured horizontally from the outside of the required barrier.
2. The vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall not exceed 2 inches (51 mm) for grade surfaces that are not solid, such as grass or gravel, where measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the pool or spa.
3. The vertical clearance between a surface below the barrier to a solid surface, such as concrete, and the bottom of the required barrier shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm) where measured on the side of the required barrier that faces away from the pool or spa.
4. Where the top of the pool or spa structure is above grade, the barrier shall be installed on grade or shall be mounted on top of the pool or spa structure. Where the barrier is mounted on the top of the pool or spa, the vertical clearance between the top of the pool or spa and the bottom of the barrier shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm).

305.2.2 Openings. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.

305.2.3 Solid barrier surfaces. Solid barriers that do not have openings shall not contain indentations or protrusions that form handholds and footholds, except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

305.2.4 Mesh fence as a barrier. Mesh fences, other than chain link fences in accordance with Section 305.2.7, shall be

installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall comply with the following:

1. The bottom of the mesh fence shall be not more than 1 inch (25 mm) above the deck or installed surface or grade.
2. The maximum vertical clearance from the bottom of the mesh fence and the solid surface shall not permit the fence to be lifted more than 4 inches (102 mm) from grade or decking.
3. The fence shall be designed and constructed so that it does not allow passage of a 4-inch (102 mm) sphere under any mesh panel. The maximum vertical clearance from the bottom of the mesh fence and the solid surface shall be not greater than 4 inches (102 mm) from grade or decking.
4. An attachment device shall attach each barrier section at a height not lower than 45 inches (1143 mm) above grade. Common attachment devices include, but are not limited to, devices that provide the security equal to or greater than that of a hook-and-eye-type latch incorporating a spring-actuated retaining lever such as a safety gate hook.
5. Where a hinged gate is used with a mesh fence, the gate shall comply with Section 305.3.
6. Patio deck sleeves such as vertical post receptacles that are placed inside the patio surface shall be of a nonconductive material.
7. Mesh fences shall not be installed on top of on ground residential pools.

305.2.5 Closely spaced horizontal members. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches (1143 mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the pool or spa side of the fence. Spacing

between vertical members shall not exceed 13/4 inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cut-outs shall not exceed 13/4 inches (44 mm) in width.

305.2.6 Widely spaced horizontal members. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, the interior width of the cutouts shall not exceed 13/4 inches (44 mm).

305.2.7 Chain link dimensions. The maximum opening formed by a chain link fence shall be not more than 13/4 inches (44 mm). Where the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top and bottom that reduce the openings, such openings shall be not greater than 13/4 inches (44 mm).

305.2.8 Diagonal members. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be not greater than 13/4 inches (44 mm). The angle of diagonal members shall be not greater than 45 degrees (0.79 rad) from vertical.

305.2.9 Clear zone. There shall be a clear zone of not less than 36 inches (914 mm) between the exterior of the barrier and any permanent structures or equipment such as pumps, filters and heaters that can be used to climb the barrier.

305.2.10 Poolside barrier setbacks. The pool or spa side of the required barrier shall be not less than 20 inches (508 mm) from the water's edge.

305.3 Gates. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 305.3.1 through 305.3.3 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool or spa, shall be self-closing and shall have a self-latching device.

305.3.1 Utility or service gates. Gates not intended for pedestrian use, such as utility or service gates, shall remain locked when not in use.

305.3.2 Double or multiple gates. Double gates or multiple gates shall have not fewer than one leaf secured in place and the adjacent leaf shall be secured with a self-latching device. The gate and barrier shall not have openings larger than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the latch release mechanism. The self-latching device shall comply with the requirements of Section 305.3.3.

305.3.3 Latches. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from grade, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool or spa side of the gate not less than 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and the gate and barrier shall not have openings greater than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.

305.4 Structure wall as a barrier. Where a wall of a dwelling or structure serves as part of the barrier and where doors or windows provide direct access to the pool or spa through that wall, one of the following shall be required:

1. Operable windows having a sill height of less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above the indoor finished floor and doors shall have an alarm that produces an audible warning when the window, door or their screens are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017. In dwellings or structures not required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located 54 inches (1372 mm) or more above the finished floor. In dwellings or structures required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm) and not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above the finished floor.
2. A safety cover that is listed and labeled in accordance with ASTM F1346 is installed for the pools and spas.

3. An approved means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, is provided. Such means of protection shall provide a degree of protection that is not less than the protection afforded by Item 1 or 2.

305.5 Onground residential pool structure as a barrier. An onground residential pool wall structure or a barrier mounted on top of an onground residential pool wall structure shall serve as a barrier where all of the following conditions are present:

1. Where only the pool wall serves as the barrier, the bottom of the wall is on grade, the top of the wall is not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade for the entire perimeter of the pool, the wall complies with the requirements of Section 305.2 and the pool manufacturer allows the wall to serve as a barrier.
2. Where a barrier is mounted on top of the pool wall, the top of the barrier is not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade for the entire perimeter of the pool, and the wall and the barrier on top of the wall comply with the requirements of Section 305.2.
3. Ladders or steps used as means of access to the pool are capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access except where the ladder or steps are surrounded by a barrier that meets the requirements of Section 305.
4. Openings created by the securing, locking or removal of ladders and steps do not allow the passage of a 4-inch (102 mm) diameter sphere.
5. Barriers that are mounted on top of onground residential pool walls are installed in accordance with the pool manufacturer's instructions.

305.6 Natural barriers. In the case where the pool or spa area abuts the edge of a lake or other natural body of water, public access is not permitted or allowed along the shoreline, and

required barriers extend to and beyond the water's edge not less than 18 inches (457 mm), a barrier is not required between the natural body of water shoreline and the pool or spa.

305.7 Natural topography. Natural topography that prevents direct access to the pool or spa area shall include but not be limited to mountains and natural rock formations. A natural barrier approved by the governing body shall be acceptable provided that the degree of protection is not less than the protection afforded by the requirements of Sections 305.2 through 305.5.

- C. **Fees.** All fees shall be set in accordance with the Fee Schedule resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors. An appeal fee shall accompany an application for appeal.