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New Jersey Bans Sale of Yo-Yo Waterballs

The Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Affairs and the State Department of Education are providing this advisory about New Jersey's recent ban on the sale of Yo-Yo Waterballs and the dangers associated with this toy.

On January 3, 2008, Governor Corzine signed into law the "Act Prohibiting Sale of Yo-Yo Waterballs," N.J.S.A. 2A-65B-1 et seq. (the "Act"). The Act prohibits the offering for sale or sale of these toys in New Jersey as of April 1, 2008.

Yo-Yo Waterballs are inexpensive yo-yo toys that contain a rubber ball filled with liquid attached to a rubber cord. The cord has a finger loop on its end and can be stretched about three feet when swung.

To date, the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC") has not banned the sale of Yo-Yo Waterballs. The CPSC, however, has reported that Yo-Yo Waterballs pose a potential strangulation risk. Between December 1, 2002 and October 31, 2006, the CPSC received 416 reported incidents involving Yo-Yo Waterballs. Of these reported incidents, 290 involved the cord of the Yo-Yo Waterball wrapped around the head or neck, with 16 reports stating that the person involved lost consciousness.

We ask that parents do the following:

- Check your child's toys currently in your home. If you find a Yo-Yo Waterball, please discard it immediately.
- Alert your children to the dangers of Yo-Yo Waterballs.
- Check any toys your child might receive as a birthday party favor or prize at a school or other function.

Despite the passage of the Act, Consumer Affairs investigators have recently found Yo-Yo Waterballs offered for sale at retail locations throughout New Jersey.

If you find Yo-Yo Waterballs offered for sale, please contact the Division of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-242-4846 (toll-free within New Jersey) or via the Division's web site, <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov>