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Dispose of noncompliant cribs

The feature article in this newsletter addresses concerns about cribs with drop-sided designs and new regulations intended to help prevent deaths from suffocation and strangulation. Complying with the new regulations introduces a perplexing question about what to do with noncompliant cribs.

Bottom line, a noncompliant crib should be removed from use, disassembled and discarded, even though it may have previously been retrofitted with a repair kit provided by the manufacturer. Disposing of a noncompliant crib, especially one that appears to be in good shape, may be a difficult step to take for some congregations. It can be a hard one to swallow, knowing that there are families around the country on limited income that could benefit from having "good" cribs for their children.

Some members of the congregation might suggest that a noncompliant crib, in good condition, could find a continued useful life by taking it out of the worship center and finding it another home. These same members might suggest donating noncompliant cribs to charitable organizations, selling them online or at garage sales or simply giving them to parents in need of basic furniture.

Although the above suggestions are well meaning, the important point to keep in mind is that drop-sided cribs have had a history of being involved in infant deaths. That's why the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) approved the new regulations that banned this type of crib.

So when it comes to the question of, "What should I do with the old crib?"...the CPSC and Church Mutual recommend, for safety and legal reasons, that a congregation not sell, donate or give away a crib that does not meet the new standard. Instead, disassemble and discard it in a way that it cannot be easily reassembled and put back in use by others.

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[To top of page](#)

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