

How to Deal With Noisy Neighbors

Noisy neighbors can make life a misery. We'll take you through some useful steps to deal with noisy neighbors.

Step 1

Consider the situation

If your neighbors are causing an unreasonable level of disturbance to your life, you will want to take action quickly. But before you do anything, take time to make sure you have the situation straight in your own mind. Ask yourself the following questions: What is the disturbance? What effect is it having on me? What would I like to do to resolve the problem? You may find it useful to write some notes.

Step 2

Talk to your neighbor

It may be possible that your neighbor is unaware of the disturbance their noise is causing you. First you should try talking to your neighbor face to face. If possible, choose a time to visit when the noise is not taking place. This will let them know you are not trying to intrude on their activities, but would like them to be more considerate of your needs. Be courteous, polite, and willing to listen to their point of view. Remember, they might not realize they are causing a problem. But be clear about what the problem is and how it affects you. If they are apologetic but the problem later persists, try talking to them a second time.

If you feel nervous or intimidated by your neighbor, take a friend, partner or other neighbor with you when you visit. They can act as a witness should your neighbor lose their temper and may be able to help diffuse a situation. Also keep a mobile phone in your pocket, and walk away if you feel threatened in any way. If you are seriously concerned about your safety, don't go at all and pursue the matter officially.

Step 3

Take notes

Keep a record of all conversations you have with them.

Step 4

Write a letter

If the problem continues, try writing your neighbor a letter. This may seem formal, but it can be an effective way of communicating if talking doesn't seem to work. Take time to compose the letter, writing a draft version first. Then type or write it up neatly. Your neighbor is more likely to heed a considered letter rather than a scrawled note on a scrap of paper. Make sure you keep a copy of the letter. This is evidence that you have tried to resolve the situation yourself and will be of interest to your local authority should it become a formal complaint.

Step 5

Keep a diary

Make a note of each incident of noise disturbance, recording the time it occurred, the type and volume of the noise, and the effect that it had on you. This will help you to be specific when dealing with your neighbor, and again will serve as evidence should you need to pursue a formal complaint.

Step 6

Find a mediator

If you are unable to resolve the issue yourself, consider involving a trained mediator. They will invite you and your neighbor to sit down together and help you to reach an amicable resolution.

For information regarding mediation in El Dorado County please contact:

<http://www.arbitrationworks.com/>

<http://www.adr.org/>

http://www.dca.ca.gov/r_r/mediati1.htm

County Coordinator: John R. Olson
Laureen Lee Lawrence, ADR Administrator
El Dorado County Superior Court
495 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667
TEL (530) 621-6426
www.eldoradocourt.org

Step 7

Contact your Local Authority

Look in the telephone directory to find the contact details for your Local Authority. They will be able to advise you on what further steps you can take to help resolve the situation. If the matter has become very serious, then ask to register a formal complaint against your neighbor.

Reference: <http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-deal-with-noisy-neighbours>
http://www.dca.ca.gov/r_r/mediati1.htm
<http://www.adr.org/>

Text was modified for use in the USA and El Dorado County.