



Loud noises and dogs

This fact sheet has information on the sorts of noises that can cause problems in a neighbourhood and what you can do if you have a problem with excessive noise coming from your neighbour's property.

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What sorts of noises can cause problems in a neighbourhood??

Loud noises from barking dogs, rowdy late-night parties, construction work, cars, motor bikes, and music or television regularly cause issues between neighbours.

What can you do if you have a problem with excessive noise coming from your neighbour's property?

Often the best way to sort out a noise problem is to talk to your neighbour about it.

This is called negotiation.

Negotiation can be done face-to-face, over the phone, or in writing by letter or email.

Discussing the problem with your neighbour first and negotiating may help stop the problem becoming worse and avoid expensive court proceedings later.

What if talking to your neighbour does not fix the problem?

If talking to your neighbour does not fix the noise problem, you may need to get outside help.

Your local government authority or the police may be your next best option.

Local government authorities can do noise readings and prosecute anyone making unreasonable noise or breaching a local government direction or notice. For example, some local governments have rules about whether noisy vehicles can be started up early in the morning or late at night.

In Western Australia, there are also laws about excessive barking that can be enforced by your local government ranger.

The police might also be able to deal with rowdy, late-night parties.

This fact sheet contains information only. It is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should speak to a lawyer. Legal Aid WA aims to provide accurate information but does not accept responsibility if it is not.

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What if talking with your local government or the police does not fix the problem?

If talking with your local government authority or the police does not fix the problem, you may need legal advice to help you decide what your next option is.

Mediation, or dispute resolution, where a neutral person helps you reach a solution, might be the next option you take.

There are many dispute resolution services available in Western Australia.

You can find some of them on the Legal Aid WA website under our FIND LEGAL ANSWERS tab on the “Mediation and dispute resolution” webpage.

If mediation is not appropriate, you might be able to go to court to fix the problem.

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How can Legal Aid WA help?

Legal Aid WA does not normally give legal advice on dispute between neighbours, unless it involves a restraining order. However, the Legal Aid WA website has information on:

- » common neighbourhood problems;
- » negotiation;
- » mediation; and
- » dispute resolution.