

WHAT CAN I DO TO AVOID NOISE COMPLAINTS?

- **THINK ABOUT OTHERS.** Recognize that everyone has a right to peace and quiet in their homes, and that your neighbors may have small children and early bed times.
- **GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS.** When you first move in to your house, take the time to introduce yourself to your neighbors and talk over any concerns. Give them your cell phone number and ask them to call you if there is a problem. Then give them the courtesy of responding to their concerns if they do call you.
- **MAKE A PLAN.** If you are going to host a party or gathering, make sure you have a sober, responsible person to monitor your noise level. Let your neighbors know about the party in advance and encourage them to call you directly if things get too loud. Pay attention to your guests' behavior outside of your house. Just like you don't want strangers urinating or littering in your yard, your neighbors don't either. Have fun but be respectful of your neighbors.

WHAT IF I'M HAVING ON-GOING CONFLICTS WITH MY NEIGHBOR?

If talking with your neighbor isn't working, there is a **free** conflict resolution and mediation service called **SLO Solutions** available to all City residents. This service has been very successful in resolving on-going disputes in a positive and productive way. Information about SLO Solutions is available at www.slosolutions.com or by calling (805) 549-0442.

WHO CAN I CALL IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Ardith Tregenza
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NOISE STANDARDS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO

(HOW TO AVOID A TICKET)



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www.respectslobro.com

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WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Disturbances caused by loud noise, music and parties are a significant problem in San Luis Obispo, especially in neighborhoods where students reside near long term residents. This causes tension and conflict among neighbors, and citations for violations are expensive.



WHAT IS THE CITY LAW AND POLICY ABOUT NOISE?

It is a violation to make or allow any noise between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM that can be heard across your property line, or more than 50 feet away and across your property line **anytime** during the day. This includes loud music and other noise, such as loud voices at a party or gathering. This regulation is contained in section 9.12.050 of the City of San Luis Obispo Municipal Code.

Violations are enforced by the San Luis Obispo Police Department. Violators receive either a warning or a citation, and may be responsible for paying the cost of the officers responding to the call. If the property is rented, violations are also reported to the property owner who may choose to enforce lease agreements regarding noise.

WHAT DOES A NOISE CITATION COST?

The short answer is... a lot! The fines for noise violations are:

- \$350** for the first citation
- \$700** for the second citation
- \$1,000** for the third or subsequent citations

In addition, if the noise is not stopped after a warning and officers are required to return anytime within 24 hours, then the resident is also responsible for paying the cost of the officers' response time in addition to the citation. Think of all the better ways you could spend your money!

WHAT IS SNAP?

AND WHY IS IT BETTER TO HAVE THEM RESPOND THAN POLICE OFFICERS?

Student Neighborhood Assistance Program (SNAP) employees are Cal Poly and Cuesta students employed by the SLO Police Department. SNAP employees are sent to noise complaints and if they verify a violation, they contact residents and issue a Disturbance Advisement Card (DAC), which is a formal warning.

SNAP employees do not issue noise citations... but, if SNAP employees are met with verbal abuse or uncooperative behavior by the responsible residents or their guests, police officers respond and can issue a citation.

AM I ENTITLED TO A WARNING FIRST?

No. Police officers may respond to noise complaints without SNAP employees being sent first and a warning is not required. Officers can issue a citation on the first contact if they observe a noise violation. Large parties (more than 75 people) do not receive warnings from SNAP and officers are automatically sent to the complaint.

WHAT IF MY HOUSE RECEIVES ONE WARNING?

Residences (tracked in the Police Dept. computer database by address) that receive one Disturbance Advisement Card (warning) are then placed on a No Warning List for the next 9 months. During that time if a noise complaint is received no further warnings are issued. Instead, officers are sent to the call and can issue a citation if there is a violation. The property owner is also notified of the warning and that they can also be fined for any further noise violations at the house during the next 9 month period. Fines for the landlord are:

- \$350** for the first citation
- \$700** for the second citation
- \$1,000** for the third citation

Landlords could also choose to pass these fines on to the tenants occupying the house and responsible for the noise violations.

WHAT IF MY NEIGHBOR COMPLAINS BUT I AM NOT IN VIOLATION?

If SNAP employees or officers who respond to the complaint do not hear or see a violation, they will not contact the residents or issue a DAC or citation. The unfounded complaint will not count against the house for "premise" status.