



Zach Klein

CITY ATTORNEY

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE • COLUMBUS OHIO

INFORMATION ON THE PROBLEM OF COMMUNITY NOISE

The problem of community noise has been a long unaddressed issue. The Prosecutor Division at the Columbus City Attorney's Office, under the leadership of City Attorney Zach Klein, is committed to addressing this quality of life issue.

The first action to take when dealing with a noise disturbance problem is to contact the Prosecution Resources Unit's Lead Legal Intake Counselor, Dayla Murphy at (614) 645-5807 or dammurphy@columbus.gov.

Noise disturbance solutions may include the following:

1. A noise disturbance warning letter can be mailed to the address where the noise in question is occurring. We do not disclose the identity of the person who has called our office to complain about the noise disturbance. A vast majority of noise disturbance issues are resolved at this step.
2. Mediation can be scheduled in our office to allow the parties to discuss the matter. Our Mediation Program has a long history of successfully handling this type of neighborhood problem. Currently, our Mediation Program is on hold due to the pandemic.
3. If the problem persists despite a warning letter and mediation, prosecution exists as a final option. Please be advised that under the Columbus City Code §2329.11(C), Community Noise is a minor misdemeanor and is punishable by a maximum penalty of a \$150 fine. If you have a prior conviction for this same offense, a subsequent violation would be a fourth degree misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail and a \$250 fine. Most importantly, Community Noise is a crime of strict liability. Additionally, under Columbus City Code §2317.11(A)(2), Disorderly Conduct is a fourth degree misdemeanor punishable by a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail and a \$250 fine. Our office requires the following types of evidence:
 - a. The noise disturbance must happen within the city limits of Columbus. You must also provide the name(s) of the individual(s) causing the noise disturbance.
 - b. To prosecute a case, you must provide exact dates and times the noise disturbance has taken place. Simply stating "there is excessive noise everyday" is NOT sufficient evidence to file a criminal charge. The evidence you submit should also include one or two other households in the area that will confirm the dates and times the excessive noise occurred. Video and/or audio tape recordings of the noise are also very helpful. Generally, 20 minutes or more of audio demonstrating continuous noise is needed to create a strong case.

Please note: Unless the noise occurring is excessive, it is NOT considered criminal. Be advised that in order to pursue a criminal charge (as explained in #3 above), you will need to file a complaint through the Intake Division at the Columbus City Attorney's Office, 375 South High Street, 7th Floor. If charges are approved, you may be required to appear in court several times.

Civil Division
77 N. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7385
Fax 614-645-6949

Claims Division
77 N. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7385
Fax 614-724-6503

Prosecution Division
375 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7483
Fax 614-645-8902

Real Estate Division
77 N. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7712
Fax 614-645-3913

Police Legal Advisor
120 Marconi Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-4530
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