

# Noise Complaints

Facilitator Guide

## Session Overview

Introduction & Learning Objectives	05m
<b>PROBLEM STATEMENT 1</b> – Loud Stereo	10m
<b>GROUP EXERCISE</b> – Noise Laws	15m
<b>PROBLEM STATEMENT 2</b> – Loud Party	10m
Discussion – Shutting Down a Party, Fight Calls	10m
<b>BREAK/END OF SESSION</b>	<b>10m</b>

*Total Session Time: 1 hour*

### **Main Topics of Session:**

- *Local Noise Ordinances*
- *Handling Noise Complaints*
- *Handling Party Calls*
- *Handling Fight Calls*
- *Liquor and Tobacco Laws*

### **Facilitators Needed: 1 (CL)**

**Location: Classroom**

### **Materials Needed:**

- *PowerPoint - Noise Complaints*

### **Students Should Already Have:**

- *Pocket Press Books*

**[THUMB DRIVE]**

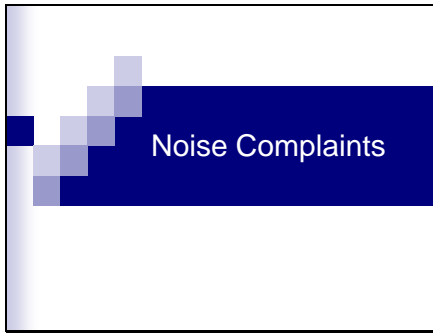
- *Criminal Law Student Resource Guide*



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### Learning Objectives

- Apply the BLEA problem solving model to scenarios involving noise disturbances
- Locate offenses in the RCWs, identify the elements of the offenses, and apply the rules of interpretation to define key words

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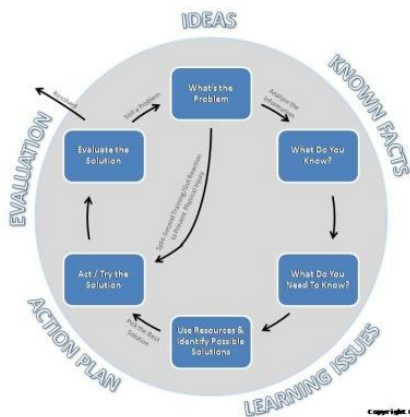
### Problem Statement

On Sunday morning at 0730 you are dispatched to a noise complaint at Marvin Gardens Apartments, Unit 104. The reporting party says the upstairs neighbors are making excessive noise by playing their stereo loudly and stomping across the floor above her. You make contact and are invited inside the reporting party's apartment.



### PROBLEM STATEMENT - Loud Stereo

On Sunday morning at 0730, you are dispatched to a noise complaint at Marvin Gardens Apartments, Unit 104. The reporting party says the upstairs neighbors are making excessive noise by playing their stereo loudly and stomping across the floor above her. You make contact and are invited inside the reporting party's apartment.



QTC: #1 - What's the Problem?

QTC: #2 - What do you Know?  
(Who are clients & indirect clients?)

QTC: #3 - What do you need to Know?

QTC: #4 - What are your resources? Possible solutions?

QTC: #5 - What's your plan of action?

QTC: #6 - How will you evaluate your results?



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## DISCUSSION - Problem Statement (PART I)

### QTC: How would you handle this call?

AR:

- Approach the scene using silent and invisible deployment.
- Park away from the apartment building and approach on foot.
- Consider back-up if familiar with area or residence.
- Observe and listen to determine if I can hear the music from outside.
- Make contact with the reporting party and interview (gather information).
- Identify everyone involved and perform a records check (not necessarily at the same time).
- Contact residents upstairs and interview.
- Determine if a crime has occurred.

### QTC: What questions should you ask of the Reporting Party (R/P)?

AR:

- Do you know the person(s) who live upstairs (names)?
- What have you done about the situation?
- Have you talked to them about it?
- Have you talked to the management?
- How often does this type of problem occur?
- Have you contacted the police in the past?

### QTC: Do you think a crime has occurred? If so, what crime?

AR: Recruit's response.



#### NOTE TO FACILITATOR

This is the first time the class has been introduced to reporting parties. Explain to the recruits that contacts with reporting parties should be considered an unknown-risk contact. Generally, the lowest associated risk is contact with citizens reporting a crime. Officers need to maintain a professional partial, unbiased, demeanor when contacting an R/P but be constantly aware of potential threats and surroundings (condition yellow).

Most likely, you will get a variety of responses. This is okay because we want them to begin the critical thinking process. Record their responses on an easel chart.

Ultimately, you will guide them to two RCW's, **Public Disturbance** and **Public Nuisance**, so they can research and identify the elements of the offense.



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## GROUP EXERCISE - Noise Laws

Time: **15 minutes** (5 prep / 5 work / 5 debrief)

Materials: • RCWs

Instructions: In your squads, research Chapter 9A.84 RCW (Public Disturbance) and Chapter 9.66.010 RCW (Public Nuisance) to determine which of these laws may be applicable in this situation.

NTF: After each group has briefly shared their response explain that neither of these crimes applies to our current scenario. Make sure you articulate why. For example, Public Nuisance does not apply because you need two of the key elements to occur.



## DISCUSSION - RCWs: Public Disturbance and Public Nuisance

**QTC:** Neither of these criminal codes apply, do you have any other enforcement action available to you?

**AR:** Many times you may find that the criminal codes are vague and really don't fit. In those circumstances, you will want to refer to your jurisdiction's municipal codes which can be applied in place of RCW.



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**Problem Statement Two (Part I)**

At 2300, the first weekend back from school, you are dispatched to a loud party complaint at 303 7<sup>th</sup> Street where about 10 college students have gathered with music, food, and beer. The neighbor across the street (Craig Roberts) called and complained that there are cars parked up and down both sides of the street. When you arrive, you don't think the party is that loud.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT - Loud Party Complaint (PART I)**

At 2300, the first weekend back from school, you are dispatched to a loud party complaint at 303 7<sup>th</sup> Street where about 10 college students have gathered with music, food and, beer. The neighbor across the street (Craig Roberts) called and complained that there are cars parked up and down both sides of the street.

**DISCUSSION - Problem Statement TWO (PART I) - Loud Party Call****QTC: Who are your clients and indirect clients?****AR: Direct Client:**

Initially the complainant (reporting party). The owners and/or responsible party and party goers may become your direct clients as the investigation unfolds.

**Indirect Client:**

Neighborhood residents

Motorists driving through the area

Other officers in the area

**QTC: What are their expectations?****AR: Expectations:**

Go immediately to the residence and handle the loud party complaint.  
Disperse everyone in attendance.

**QTC: What is the problem?**

AR: Neighbor is causing a disturbance by having a loud party as their house.  
Possible parking problem.



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**QTC:** Is there any other info you need?

AR: Who is the owner?  
How many people are there?  
Has a criminal offense occurred?

**QTC:** How will you respond to this call for service?

AR: Request back up and respond.



## IMPORTANT POINT

Depending on the information you receive from dispatch, size of party, weapons, assaultive behavior you may consider coordinating a staging area away from the scene where officers can meet prior to deployment.

- Coordinate w/ Back-up BEFORE arrival

**QTC:** What should you do once you arrive at the residence?

AR: Notify dispatch  
Observe the scene as you approach  
Contact the owner or person responsible for the party and advise them about the complaint.

**QTC:** What should you be looking for?

AR: Violations such as minor in possession, drug activity, parking, etc.

**QTC:** If no violations are present, what are you going to do?

AR: Educate homeowner and R/P of the applicable laws pertaining to the situation and what may occur.

**QTC:** How might the renter/owner(s) rectify the disturbance on their own?

AR: Move people inside  
Ask people to leave  
Turn down the music  
Party over

**QTC:** Who else do you need to talk to before clearing the call?

AR: The complainant (RP)  
Advise the complainant (RP) that if the problem is not resolved, they should recall the police.



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### Problem Statement Two (Part II)

Upon arrival, you met some partiers on the front porch and asked for the owner. The owners (*Trudy Troxler, DOB: 03/14/70; and Donna Dahlem, DOB: 09/04/70*) agreed the party needed to be taken inside. You advised them that if you are called back, they may be cited or arrested.

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### Problem Statement Two (Part II)

At 0100, you are called back. You observe approximately double the number of people and hear yelling and laughing when you arrive. You notice beer bottles and garbage strung all over the front lawn of the residence and on the sidewalk. The number of cars has also increased and you notice many of them are illegally parked.



### PROBLEM STATEMENT - Loud Party Complaint (PART II)

Upon arrival, you met some partiers on the front porch and asked for the owner. The owners (*Trudy Troxler, DOB: 03-14-70; and Donna Dahlem, DOB: 09/04/70*) agreed the party needed to be taken inside.

At 0100, you are called back. You observe approximately double the number of people and hear yelling and laughing when you arrive. You notice beer bottles and garbage strung all over the front lawn of the residence and on the sidewalk. The number of cars has also increased and you notice many of them are illegally parked.



### DISCUSSION - Problem Statement TWO (PART II)

#### QTC: How did your team decide to respond? Why?

AR: Cite for Minor in Possession (MIP) if present  
 Noise disturbance (Municipal code issue)  
 Write parking tickets and start towing cars  
 Shut down the party

#### QTC: What liquor violations are most often associated with loud party calls?

AR: Furnishing Liquor to Minors (RCW 66.44.270)  
 Minor in Possession (RCW 66.44.270)  
 Minor Purchasing/Attempting to Purchase Liquor (66.44.290)  
 Making and Providing Fake ID's (RCW 66.44.328)



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## IMPORTANT POINT

As a police officer, you will need to know the laws that pertain to use of liquor and tobacco. You can find these laws referenced in your Criminal Law Student Resource Guide. You should also check within your local jurisdiction to see how other resources, such as Liquor Control Agents, can be used.

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### Shutting Down a Party

- Turn off the music, turn on the lights and get everyone's attention
- Be diplomatic and confident when making the announcement
- Consider having the owner/operator make the announcement
- Remind people not to drink and drive

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### Large Fights

- Respond with lights and siren to disperse crowd
- Your first objective is to protect life
- Enforcement of the laws may become secondary
- Making an arrest is not always feasible due to the large crowd and being outnumbered
- Give orders to disperse over your P.A.
- Never rush into the crowd
- Identify the primary aggressor(s) and aim to neutralize him/her/them
- Have medical aid stage until the scene is secure

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### Review

- Noise Ordinances (STUDY)
- Shutting down a party
- Large fights
- Liquor & Tobacco Laws (STUDY)



END OF SESSION

