

Noisy Parties: What you need to know



Excessive noise from amplified music, motors, generators and guests is the number one reason why police are called to a party. As a party host, it is your responsibility to keep noise levels to a minimum. This information sheet sets out what you need to know about noise abatement directions and some handy hints!

Noise abatement direction

Excessive noise from your party can be reported to police, **24 hours a day, 7 days a week** and once reported will be investigated by police. If the police are reasonably satisfied the noise is excessive in the circumstances police have the power to enter the premises, without warrant, and give the person responsible for the noise (including the host) a noise abatement direction.

The noise abatement direction can be given orally or in writing and will direct the person to immediately abate the excessive noise and to cease making **any** excessive noise for 12 hours after the direction is given.

Police can require the person responsible to state their correct name and address and to give evidence of the correctness of the stated name and address if, in the circumstances, it would be reasonable to expect the person to be in possession of evidence of age. Remember that it is an offence not to give the police officer your correct name and address.

What if the excessive noise continues?

If police have been called to your property because of excessive noise and issued you with a noise abatement direction you are on their radar and they may follow up to ensure that you are complying with the direction or if they receive further complaints.

If excessive noise continues within the noise abatement period the police may, again without a warrant, enter the premises and investigate with a view of commencing proceedings for an offence of failing to comply with a noise abatement direction. It does not matter that the noise emitted from the premises, in contravention of the noise abatement direction, is not at the same level or of the same nature as the excessive noise for which the original noise abatement direction was originally given.

Other police powers and penalties

If the police return at any time within the noise abatement period (i.e. the 12 hours after the noise abatement direction was given) and are again satisfied that the noise is excessive in the circumstances the police may, without a warrant, enter the premises from which the noise is being emitted and issue the person responsible for the noise (including the host) an on-the-spot fine of \$200 or a notice to appear in court, where a maximum penalty of \$1,000 can apply.

The police also have the power to seize, remove, lock away or render inoperable the property that is being used to produce the noise. Whilst any seized or removed property can be collected from police you will have to wait at least 24 hours,

from the time the property was seized, and could be required to pay any costs incurred by police in seizing and removing the property.

What's more, it is an offence to unlock, unseal or use the property within the noise abatement period, and if you do you may be subject to a fine of up to \$10,000.

Handy hints

- Let your neighbours know about your party in advance, as this may reduce concerns about parking or noise later. Give them your contact details so that they can contact you directly with any concerns they may have on the night, rather than the police.
- Keep music indoors and move guests inside later on in the night.
- Make sure that your sound system speakers are not facing directly towards a neighbour.
- Think about turning down the bass; it is often the bass noise that bothers neighbours. Turning down bass controls or turning off subwoofers can help to control noise levels.
- Ask guests to be quiet when they leave.
- Avoid using front yards or street frontages as this is more likely to elicit complaints from neighbours.
- Remember that registering your party with police is not a license to make as much noise as you want.

For more party planning tips and a helpful 'Party Safe' checklist go to www.police.qld.gov.au/party or pop into your local police station for more information and resources for organising and registering your 'Party Safe' party.