



# Friday April 8, 2016:

“How do I make a complaint about (insert issue regarding noise)?”

Unwanted noises can be an extreme nuisance to everyone. We regularly get calls regarding barking dogs, loud music, construction, and loud cars. There are city codes that govern noise. Below is a summary of what codes apply to specific noise complaints and the best way to report it.

- **Barking dog complaint:** It is against City Code to “harbor” or keep any animal that **habitually** makes sounds that disturb the peace and quiet. This is covered under City Code **§ 6-1-3 NOISES**. Possible fines start at \$250 for first offense, and can go up to \$750 for failure to remedy the complaint.
- **Loud music and/or loud cars:** This covers any noise created by one or more of these issues. The commonality is if these noises and when they become a violation of city code, or even state law, is when it becomes offensive to the senses, or so as to disturb the slumber, peace and quiet or otherwise interfere with or annoy the comfortable enjoyment of life or property. This is covered by City Code **§ 10-1-12 NOISE**
- **Loud noise caused by construction:** This code is unique as it covers specific times when noise from construction is prohibited, as seen below:
  - Before 5:00 a.m. Arizona State Time and after 6:30 p.m. Arizona State Time, Monday through Friday from April 15 to October 15;
  - Before 6:00 a.m. Arizona State Time and after 6:30 p.m. Arizona State Time, Monday through Friday during the remainder of the year; and
  - Before 7:00 a.m. Arizona State Time and after 5:00 p.m. Arizona State Time on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year and holidays recognized by the city.

This is covered by City Code **§ 10-1-12 NOISE**

Fines and fees for these noise violations can vary. Under each code a link to the penalties are listed. These links detail the fees, fines, and possible jail time that could be faced if these codes are violated.

Please keep in mind, these complaints are often hard to cite as the noise has to be observed by the responding officer. If they are unable to observe the noise they are unable to cite for the violation. This is why it is a good idea to provide additional witnesses or documentation of the repeated violation by way of audio or video recording.

This information is not all inclusive; there are more details and specifications to these complaints and the possible fines and penalties for violation of these complaints. You can find this information on the City Code website at [http://www.amlegal.com/codes/client/apache-junction\\_az/](http://www.amlegal.com/codes/client/apache-junction_az/).

To make a complaint about a violation of one of these codes, you are welcome to call the AJPD **NON-EMERGENCY** number at (480) 982-8260 to make a complaint. The noise complaints listed above do not constitute an emergency so 9-1-1 **should not be called** to make a complaint.

If you have questions about this Friday's FAQ's, please contact the Community Resource Coordinator at (480) 474-5442 or [scarney@ajcity.net](mailto:scarney@ajcity.net).