

Common Problems

- Animals/Pets
- Blighted Property
- Fences
- Illegal Activities
- Noise Complaints
- Property Boundary Lines
- Shared Driveways
- Trees
- Views
- Watercourse Issues
- Landlord/Tenant Disputes
- On-Street Parking
- Rubbish Disposal
- Snow Removal

Why Mediate?



Conflicts are a fact of life. People will undoubtedly face different types of conflicts. Open communication is the most effective way to resolve differences. But when that does not work, mediation may be the answer.

If you have been unsuccessful in resolving an issue with your neighbor, the Village of Granville can provide contact information for local mediators.

For more information, please call the Village of Granville at 740-587-0707.



Granville Ohio
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NEIGHBOR MEDIATION



Village of Granville

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HELPING COMMUNITY
MEMBERS RESOLVE
DISPUTES WITH
NEIGHBORS

Get heard.
Be understood.

Can I resolve a dispute myself?

Many neighbor disputes end up in court because of poor communication. If something is happening with a neighbor that is upsetting you, the best way to handle the situation is with good communication.

1. **Get to know your neighbor.** One often over-looked strategy is to get to know your neighbor. Introduce yourself. Talk about general issues of interest. Building trust and understanding first can go a long way. Issues are much more likely to escalate among strangers than even casual acquaintances.
2. **Head off problems before they are problems.** If you are having a party, invite your neighbor or give them your card to call you if the party becomes too loud. If you are going to build a fence or renovate, let your neighbor know.
3. **Document the problem.** When an issue arises, start keeping notes - dates, times, photos, etc. Documentation allows you to evaluate the problem to really determine the seriousness of the issue. It provides clear information to explain the problem to your neighbor. A log also documents a case for authorities later on, if needed.
4. **Talk it out.** Tell your neighbor what is bothering you. Do not assume they know. Be open, pleasant and direct, not passive-aggressive. Ask for your neighbor's input. Propose a solution that splits the difference and demonstrates a willingness to compromise. Stay cool and remain positive, even if the response is negative. You lose nothing by being pleasant.
5. **Talk to other neighbors.** See if the problem is bothering any other neighbor. They may offer a suggestion, have a closer relationship or be willing to help on your behalf. Remember, you are seeking a solution, not asking for people to take sides.



6. **Write and report.** If you suspect your neighbor is violating a Village ordinance or building code violation, contact the Village Planning Department or the Licking County Building Code Department. Submit all the information that you have gathered to the proper authorities. Do not try to be anonymous. The authorities do not need to report your name to the neighbor, but they will take your concerns more seriously when you identify yourself.
7. **Call the Police.** If you have acted in good faith with no success, involving the police is the next step. The police are most likely to help if the other party has violated a local ordinance or state law such as excessive noise, but they are unlikely to be able to do much about a dangerous limb. If you have a log of dates and times the problem occurred or a joint letter from other neighbors, show this to the police. They meet all sorts of people. A reasonable, documented approach will set you apart from others. Remember, police officers have some training in mediation and a police presence might show your neighbor that you are not going to let the problem go.
8. **Try Mediation.** Mediation is less formal, likely cheaper than going to court and brings an unbiased third party into the mix. A neutral third party can often sort out what may be multiple issues.
9. **Talk to a lawyer.** Talking to an attorney can help you sort out next steps and the costs/benefits of various options. One possibility is asking an attorney to write a letter on your behalf explaining the law, the proposed solution or legal action. This option could be costly and/or make the situation worse.

What is mediation?

Mediation is a method of problem-solving that brings together people or groups who are having conflict. In mediation, individuals decide for themselves how to solve their problem. A mediator helps parties listen and understand the other's position.

Why choose mediation?

Many people find mediation an excellent and effective way to resolve disputes.

- ◆ **Success** - Mediation tends to be a very successful way for people to deal with conflicts, even those that seem impossible to solve.
- ◆ **Time** - Mediation can be scheduled quickly at a time that works for everyone involved.
- ◆ **Money** - Many types of conflicts can be mediated for free by the Village with more complex conflicts being mediated for a fee.
- ◆ **Privacy** - Mediation has a strict code of confidentiality, which creates a safe space where people can talk freely.
- ◆ **Outcome** - Mediation allows people to find "win-win" resolutions. Mediation can also help heal damaged relationships between parties.
- ◆ **Options** - Although mediations are usually successful, if an agreement cannot be reached participants can still turn to the court system.
- ◆ **Flexibility** - Mediation ensures that each party's unique needs and interests are addressed. The mediator works to help parties find a unique solution to fit their problem.

Mediation is a means to help community members resolve their disputes and deal with conflicts in their lives.