**Mediator Information from Pre-Mediation Meetings**

**Disputants: Mary/Martin & Joe/Jo**

Mary/Martin and Joe/Jo are next door neighbours.

**Mary / Martin**

Mary is a full time student studying for her PhD. She is in her final year and currently writing her thesis. Mary studies and writes at home as she does not like the college library. She just wants to write her thesis without the constant noise of guitars next door and feels Joe does not understand how important this work is. She is drained from the constant conflict with Joe over the noise. She cannot afford to move and a builder friend has offered to sound proof the walls for €2000 but she cannot afford that either. She feels she may have to move back to her parents’ house to complete the thesis. Mary is angry because her life is so disrupted by a noisy and inconsiderate neighbour.

**Joe/Jo**

Joe/Jo is Mary/Martin’s next door neighbour and is a guitarist in an upcoming band. He has to continuously practice new material because it could lead to a record deal and a lot of money. Mary, the next door neighbour, is always complaining about the noise - banging on the wall and calling the Gardaí. She also sent some nasty letters to him. A band mate knows someone who can sound proof the dividing wall between the houses for about €2200. It would take about two weeks to complete.

Both have agreed to attend mediation.

**Disputant A Information: Mary / Martin**

You and Joe/Jo are next door neighbours. You are a full time student and studying for your PhD. You are in your final year and very busy researching and writing your thesis.

You have a study room in your house and complete the majority of your work and study there as you do not like the college library. But for a number of months now Joe/Jo next door is almost always playing his guitar and the noise – at all hours of the day and night – is driving you to distraction. You are desperate to write your thesis without the constant noise of guitars. Joe just does not understand how important this work is to you. You are emotionally drained from the constant conflict with Joe over the noise – you bang on the walls, you’ve written him letters and even rung the Gardaí. All to no avail.

You are on a limited budget and cannot afford to move house. Because you are studying you partially accept some money from your parents but you are a very independent person. A builder friend has offered to sound proof the walls for €2000 but you cannot afford that amount of money now. You feel you may have to move back to your parents to get some peace and quiet and complete your thesis. You are very annoyed to feel pushed into this as the result of a noisy and inconsiderate neighbour.

You have agreed to attend mediation.

***Note to Disputants:***

*Ensure that you are eventually reasonable, although angry and upset at first, and respond to the mediator’s skills.*

**Disputant B Information: Joe/Jo**

Music is your life and your ambition is for your name to be mentioned alongside the likes of Bono, Bruce Springsteen and Tom Petty. You are a guitarist in an up & coming band and have an important gig in six weeks’ time which some ‘record heads’ will be attending. You are practising new material because if this works out it could lead to a record deal worth a lot of money. There may also be a six week tour after the gig. You are continuously practising but due to the pressure you are finding it hard to sleep.

Mary/Martin, your next door neighbour, is annoying you - constantly complaining about the noise banging on the wall and even calling the Gardaí. She has also sent some nasty letters to you. What is her problem? She always has her head stuck in the books and doesn’t seem to have a life at all.

A band mate knows a friend who can sound proof the dividing wall between the houses for about €2200. It would take about two weeks to complete. You are actually willing to pay for half of it to give your head some peace from the tiresome bookworm who lives next door.

You have agreed to attend mediation.

***Note to Disputants:***

*Ensure that you are eventually reasonable, although angry and upset at first, and respond to the mediator’s skills.*