**Mediator Information from Pre-Mediation Meetings**

**Disputants: Mr/Mrs Jones & Mrs/Mr Byrne**

**Mr/Mrs Jones**

Mr Jones is elderly and his wife passed away six months ago. He lives alone in his terraced house. He spoke to the Landlord about the noise from the Byrne family next door. The children are always slamming doors and there is a dog that is constantly barking. They also play football in his garden and Mr Byrne parks his work van across Mr Jones’ driveway. However Mr Jones does like the Byrne family as they have lived next door for a number of years, but he is just fed up with the amount of disruption.

**Mrs Byrne**

She is annoyed that Mr Jones complained to her landlord as she thought they were friends. She had always helped him due to his age but does not do much for him now. Since his wife died he has changed and now swears at the kids for playing football in his garden.

Her children are young and she said she finds it difficult to cope at times. Their house is quite small and they are considering a move in the near future. She tells the children to stay in their own garden but when the ball crosses over to his garden they will go and get it. He then comes out and swears at them to get out. Mrs Byrne is highly offended by the use of bad language in front of her kids who range from 6 to 10 years old.

They have both agreed to attend mediation

**Disputant A Information – Mr/Mrs Jones**

You are 70 and your wife/husband passed away six months ago. You live alone now in your terraced house in an old, quiet part of town. But it’s not so quiet anymore.

The Byrnes live next door – Mum, Dad and 3 children – you don’t know how 5 of them live in the small space. The wall dividing the houses is quite thin and you can constantly hear the children slamming doors and their dog is forever barking. The children are also regularly in your garden getting their football and will even stay to play football because your garden is bigger. You have asked them a number of times to stay out and recently you have shouted at them as you are just fed up.

Something else you don’t understand is that Mr Byrne parks his work van in front of your driveway. Granted, you don’t have a car, but no-one has even had the courtesy to ask.

You mentioned the issues to their landlord, Bob Darcy, who is an old friend and for many years lived in the same house as the Byrne family. But it was more of a chat with an old friend, not an official complaint. However, you do like the Byrne family as they have lived next door for a number of years. But the noise levels seem to be ever increasing.

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 – Mrs/Mr Byrne**

You live with your husband/wife and 3 children, aged 6-10 years old. Your next door neighbour is Mr/Mrs Jones who is probably in their 70’s. Your children are quite young and you are finding it difficult to cope lately. The terraced house you live in is quite small and you are considering a move in the near future.

You are upset that Mr Jones has made a complaint to your Landlord, Bob Darcy, as you thought they were friends. You have always helped him due to his age but don’t do much for him now. Since his wife died he has changed and swears at the kids for playing football in his garden.

You are constantly telling the children to stay in their own garden but when the ball crosses over to his garden they will go and get it. Sometimes they will stay in and play there as Mr Jones has a bigger garden. He then comes out and swears at them to get out. You are highly offended by the use of bad language in front of your kids.

Mr Byrne has to bring his work van home. Mr Jones does not have a car and you thought he would not mind the van in front of his driveway. He knows that you park the family car in your own driveway and there is room for only 1 car.

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.*