



ROLE PLAY #3 – Next-Door Neighbours – Chris (skilled)

Information for Both Parties:

Chris is in their front yard one day when the next-door neighbour, Dale, walks by and asks, in quite an angry tone: "When are you going to do something about your dog? He keeps digging up our garden and my spouse and I are both fed up!"

You are surprised by the comment and very concerned to be confronted in this way. You hadn't realized there was a problem. It is important for you to have a good relationship with your neighbours, especially the ones in close proximity to your home, and so you decide it would be a good idea to arrange a time to talk about this concern.

Information only for Chris (skilled party):

Your and Dale's families have been next door neighbours for six months since they moved in from a different province. You have lived in your house for fifteen years while your children were growing up. Now that your children are all away at college, only you, your spouse and, of course, the family dog, live in the home.

You are very established in the community and have taken on a variety of roles over the years, helping with the children's sports programs, fund-raising for the community building, and serving on the community board for several terms. You have formed many lasting friendships in the neighbourhood and really value those relationships. You can't imagine living anywhere else in the city.

You have always taken pride in your yard and do the best you can to respect everyone else's property too. It bothers you to think that your dog is causing a problem – you've always tried to keep him contained in his own yard and make sure he has regular walks and gets plenty of exercise. Nevertheless, he is like a member of the family and you're quite hurt to think that the neighbours have taken such a dislike to him. Oscar has been with you since the children were young and you just can't imagine life without him!

You're really going to have to get to the bottom of this so you invite your neighbour and spouse over to discuss the matter.