



ROLE PLAY #3 – Next-Door Neighbours – Dale (unskilled)

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 Dale (unskilled party):

You and your spouse moved into this home about six months ago, and initially you were very pleased with the new neighbourhood. It seemed to be a comfortable middle class community with shopping, medical services, and restaurants located within close proximity.

You were particularly pleased to observe many well-maintained properties, gardening being one of your favourite pastimes. In fact, that was certainly one of the determining factors in choosing where you would live. Your garden has a variety of beautiful perennials and trees, as well as plenty of room for gardens full of lovely flowers and vegetables that can be planted each spring. You and your spouse choose to spend as much time as you can in your yard, and love to entertain your friends for BBQ's and get-togethers on your patio.

During the last couple of months, you have been extremely unhappy to discover that your neighbours' large dog is causing damage to your gardens. It seems he is tunnelling under the fence and digging up the plants all along the fence. This has happened several times and you and your spouse are becoming very tired of the replanting and replacing that has to be done. Unfortunately, Chris and their spouse don't seem terribly concerned about the damage the dog is causing.

When you first moved to your new home, you were looking forward to getting to know your neighbours and hopefully becoming friends so that you could enjoy each others' company and spend time visiting together. Now there seems to be such resentment that you no longer think that is a possibility.