Lexington-Fayette Urban County
Department of Public Safety
200 East Main Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507



Guide to the Noise Ordinance

THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

This brochure provides general information regarding the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government's Noise Ordinance. Before any specific applications are made, please refer to an official printing of the ordinance.

The Noise Ordinance

Revised City Ordinance 14-70 through 14-80, better known as the Noise Ordinance, was enacted by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government on July 1, 1982. It covers a wide variety of noise disturbances in general by stating:

"... no person shall make, continue, or cause to be made, continued or permitted any noise distribution on or across a public right-of-way or a public place. This section shall not apply to noncommercial public speaking and public assembly activities conducted on any public space or public right-of-way."

This section goes on to provide specific guidelines for any number of activities. Violation of any provision calls for a fine of not less than \$25.00 and not to exceed \$500.00 for each offense.

Section 14-72 Continuing Noise Disturbance

Section 14-72 (8)(ii) of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Code of Ordinances prohibits the "operating, playing or permitting the operation or playing of any radio or similar device in such a manner to create a continuing noise disturbance at fifty (50) feet from such a device when operated in or on a motor vehicle on a public right-of-way or public space".

Responding to Noise Disturbance Calls

The Division of Police responds to approximately 8,000 noise disturbance calls each year. This accounts for 5% of overall calls for service, and generally at night, when serious crime problems are prevalent. While noise violation calls are not handled on a priority basis, like assaults, robberies and burglaries, they nonetheless prove a significant drain on police resources.

The Department of Public Safety encourages all residents of Fayette County to assist us in maintaining our community as a quality place in which to live and work. If everyone would be considerate of all people's rights and desires, the police would not be called on to intervene.

Commonly Asked Questions

Can I be stopped and cited for playing my car stereo too loud?

Yes. If the noise travels 50 feet or more from the vehicle, a violation has occurred.

Does noise include low base, such as the "booming" sound played over a stereo? Yes.

The sound is only heard for a few seconds as I pass by, so what's the problem?

Noise disturbs other motorists and people inside their home. Multiple people violating the ordinance, particularly along busy roadways, can compound the problem.

Will I receive a warning the first time I am stopped?

Not necessarily. The officer may be responding to complaints from the public, in which case enforcement is expected.

Who determines when the music is too loud?

The officer enforcing the ordinance will make a determination of violation based on the ordinance.

If I don't agree with a citation for violating the noise ordinance, what do I need to do?

The citation will include a court location, date, and time. If the fine is not paid prior to the court date, you will need to appear to contest the citation.

How much is the fine?

The exact fine will be determined by the court and may be influenced by prior violations.

Contact Fayette District Court for the specific fine payment instructions.



Prepared by:

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