

City of Boston Noise Ordinance

The City of Boston has a noise ordinance that prohibits “unreasonable or excessive noise” in the city. The City Ordinance makes it unlawful to disturb the peace by allowing noise to become excessive. The source of the noise can come from such things as amplification or instruments.

Per the ordinance, any noise louder than 70 decibels is considered too much noise at any time, except for permitted construction. In addition, the ordinance prohibits amplified sound without a permit.

The full text of the Noise Ordinance can be found in the City of Boston Municipal Code, Chapter XVI – 16-26. For more information on the rules on noise in Boston please go to Boston.Gov and search for “noise.”: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/environment/air-pollution-control-commission/rules-noise-boston>

If you have reason to believe that the noise ordinance is being violated, please use the following city services to make a complaint.

- Call 311 – (617-635-4500) This number connects you with Constituent Service Center representatives who can help you with requests for non-emergency City services and information.
- Call 911 – In some cases the noise may be so excessive that you will need to call the Boston Police. Please know that in many cases Boston Police department are responding to life safety situations and you may not see an immediate response to a noise complaint. Rest assured that when the call volume and responses to emergencies subside, Boston Police will investigate the noise complaint.