



Fact Sheet #5: Being a Good Neighbor Applies to Everyone

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

You live in a community — and that means you're someone's neighbor. Maybe you've lived in your home for a while or just moved in. Maybe you live with your family or maybe you have roommates in your group home. This guide is here to help you feel confident, included, and respected.

Remember that you have the right to be here. You also have a role to play in helping the neighborhood feel welcoming for everyone.

What Does It Mean to Be a Good Neighbor?

Being a good neighbor doesn't mean you have to be perfect. It just means:

- You show **respect** to others.
- You take care of **shared spaces**.
- You follow the **rules** that everyone in the neighborhood follows.

Everyday Things That Help

- Say hello or wave when you see someone
- Keep noise levels down, especially at night
- Pick up trash and keep the yard clean
- Park where it's allowed and try to park only in front of your property
- Let staff know if you have a problem with a neighbor—they can help
- Respect other people's space and privacy

Things That Might Bother Neighbors (Even if You Don't Mean To)

- Yelling or shouting profanities
- Loud music late at night
- Litter or leaving things on the lawn
- Blocking driveways or mailboxes with cars
- Wandering into someone else's yard without permission
- Smoking where it is easily visible, or where the smell is noticeable

If someone lets you know something is bothering them, don't take it personally. It doesn't mean you're a bad neighbor. It just means something needs to change. Talk to a family member, friend or staff person for help if you're unsure what to do.



You Deserve Respect Too

Sometimes people are unfair or unkind. That's wrong. You do not have to deal with:

- Being called names
- People saying you don't belong
- Neighbors treating you differently because of a disability
- Neighbors photographing or taking videos of you

If this happens:

- It's okay to ask for help
- Talk to your staff or another trusted person right away
- You can also report discrimination to the county or city if it continues
- Your support staff, case manager, or guardian can help you understand your rights and help you deal with tough situations.

Make Our Community Great For Everyone

You and your neighbors have the right to live in a safe, happy, and welcoming place. You can also help your neighbors understand that people with disabilities are just like everyone else – worthy of friendship, respect, and belonging.