**NEIGHBORS – HARASSMENT COURT**

**Brief Case Synopsis**

This conflict is between two neighbors, Simon/Simone and Pat/Patricia. The status of the case is that the HRO has been granted so it is currently in effect. Simon/Simone is the Petitioner and Pat/Patricia is the Respondent. The allegations in the petition include following/monitoring, uninvited visits, threats, taking video without permission and damaged property. The neighbors have lived next door to each other for 1.5 years in a townhome association.

**Pat/Patricia - Respondent**

**Please use the name and gender pronouns of your preference.**

You bought a new townhome in May 2022 and were excited about moving into a new chapter of your life. You were recently divorced and it was a huge accomplishment to establish financial independence and buy this home. You wanted a fresh start and to settle into a new community. This home had everything you wanted 2 bedrooms, an open concept for entertaining and you didn’t have to do any lawn or snow maintenance. You were ready to kick back and start enjoying life. You were also ready to start hosting your friends again and your garden level - walk out townhome would be perfect for that.

You have a very involved and stressful corporate job, so getting some more stability in your life was helping you be more successful at work. However, your work anxiety was pretty bad and you were having difficulty sleeping. Your upstairs neighbor, Simon/Simone, was not helping things at all. It seems like they would wake up in the middle of the night and make a whole bunch of noise. You couldn’t get one uninterrupted night of sleep. All that you know about your upstairs neighbor is that they are retired and not very friendly, according to your new neighbors.

After struggling with sleep for a year, you were finally diagnosed with mold allergies and you were concerned that you garden level apartment was filled with mold. How could this be? You had worked so hard to get back on your feet. A few days after your diagnosis Simon/Simone started spraying water over the balcony and it was running through their balcony and into your patio door. You were sure that they were to blame for the mold in your apartment. You immediately decided to take action and demanded that they stop or you would make a report. The HOA does not allow spraying from balconies because everyone knows that impacts the garden floor homes. Simon/Simone did not stop this behavior and continued to water twice a week! Whenever it happened while you were home you let them know that this was not acceptable. You made a complaint to the HOA but Simon/Simone denied the behavior so you started taking videos so you would have proof.

You were in the middle of a mold remediation claim with your insurance company and it was very stressful. You couldn’t get your contractor to return you calls and you couldn’t get the HOA to make Simon/Simone stop. You also couldn’t get a proper night sleep. You were exhausted. Every night Simon/Simone woke up and started making noise you began to use a broom to hit the ceiling. How could they be so rude and what could they be doing every night anyway? That didn’t stop them making noise so you started to yell and let them know it wasn’t ok to make so much noise in the middle of the night. You tried to talk to Pat/Patricia about it directly but each time you tried to go to their house to talk they never answered the door.

Finally, a few weeks ago you were able to get the contractor to start working on getting the mold out of your house. They had to put a dumpster in one of your driveway spots so it was tough getting your car in the other spot. You never used your second spot and had stored your garbage cans there. Now that space is tight you put it in between your spot and Simon/Simone’s spot. Everyday you came home from work it was blocking your parking spot. You were so frustrated that Simon/Simone thought they could do whatever they please. The next time they were up in the middle of the night you told them that they can’t touch your stuff and if they keep doing as they pleased you would take matters into your own hands. You were so excited to start a new chapter in life and can’t believe that it has gotten this stressful. What else could go wrong?

A few weeks later a sheriff came to your door and served you papers for a Harassment Restraining Order from Simon/Simone. Who do they think they are? You cannot believe this. You have a clean record and have never been involved with the police. You can’t even believe that now you need to spend time fighting this bogus case. If anyone should be filing a Harassment Restraining order it should be you.