



Two Minute Challenge: Stop Sign

It's 2 a.m. and you are out with some friends. You are driving. The roads seem deserted. You come to a stop sign. Do you stop? Why or why not?

Issues

It's the law

Possible consequences

Community norms

Resources

Memory of your driver's ed teacher's voice

Rules of the Road

Your internal values/compass
Thinking through the consequences

Rules and Regulations

Rules of the Road

Your family rules about use of the car

Insurance regulations
Community norms

Questions

Is it an emergency?

How busy is the street?

How often do police patrol here?

How likely is it that you will get caught?

Are you prepared for any consequences?

Who is Affected?

You

Your family

Anyone you might hurt; their family

Community norms/trust

Options

Stop at the stop sign

Do a rolling stop

Run the stop sign

Takeaway Lessons:

- 1.) **Rationalization.** It's easy to rationalize that it won't hurt anyone—even you, if you do not stop at 2 a.m.. Think about what would happen if everyone did this, though, and its effect on the society. How would traffic be affected?
- 2.) **Habits.** Make a habit, so it becomes instinctive. This is an effective way to avoid trouble. Many bad habits start with small steps; incrementalism can lead to places one never intended to go. Developing habits is like developing professional responsibility muscle.
- 3.) **Drawing the line.** Knowing where to draw the line is important. If it's an emergency with a person's health/life is at risk, the situation may be different than if you are avoiding following the law for your own convenience/expedience.
- 4.) **Compliance vs. Ethics vs. Professional Responsibility.** Stopping because it's the law and to avoid getting caught is a compliance perspective. Stopping because the community expects it and you do not want to hurt anyone is an ethical outlook. Stopping because it's a habit is approaching this from the perspective of professional responsibility and building good professional responsibility muscle.