2MC - 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?

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 stopping 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.

**Issues**
- It's the law
- Possible consequences
- Community norms

**Rules and Regulations**
- Rules of the Road
- Your family rules about use of the car
- Insurance regulations
- Community norms

**Who is Affected?**
- You
- Your family
- Anyone your might hurt; their family
- Community norms/trust

**Questions**
- Is it an emergency?
- How busy is the street?
- How often do police lurk here?
- How likely is it that you will get caught?
- Are you prepared to take the consequences?

**Resources**
- Memory of your driver’s ed teacher’s voice
- Rules of the Road
- Your internal values/compass
- Thinking through the consequences

**Options**
- Stop at the stop sign
- Do a rolling stop
- Run the stop sign

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