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?

**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/expediency.

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.