

Procedural Justice

Criminal Justice

Why how an encounter is conducted predicts compliance better than its outcome.

People comply with the law more readily when they experience the process as fair, largely regardless of the outcome.

Voice + neutrality + respect + trustworthy motives

Stop is explained

Voice and respect

Legitimacy rises

No reason given

Outcome unchanged

Compliance falls

Rules applied evenly

Fairness across groups

Seen as neutral

THE COMMON MISTAKE

× Fair process means soft policing

✓ Fair process is about method

Procedural justice concerns how an encounter is conducted, not whether enforcement happens; a lawful arrest can still be fair.

Educational reference. Tyler's survey findings replicate broadly, though training-based field trials have shown mixed results.