



## Procedural Justice: What is it? Do BWCs impact it?

The idea of a procedurally just police-citizen encounter has been discussed for over 25 years and is more relevant today in the context of a national dialogue about police behavior and community engagement.

What does it mean to be procedurally just? Procedural justice has two broad elements -- quality decision-making and quality of treatment experienced by citizens. These elements include four major principles – participation, neutrality, dignity and respect, and trustworthy motives rooted in care and concern.

Procedural justice suggests that the public prefers and is more satisfied with decisions that are fair and thoughtful, and includes their input. Importantly, people prefer decision processes that affirm their dignity and reflect concern about their well-being. Police officers whose decisions reflect procedural justice are thought to be more legitimate in the eyes of citizens and are more likely to elicit

compliance and cooperation from them. Conversely, police undermine support from the public when their decisions indicate bias, treat citizens disrespectfully, or are cavalier in their manner.

Do body-worn cameras (BWCs) assist in making police officers more procedurally just? That is, do BWCs improve police behavior during encounters with the public? A study in Los Angeles found that BWCs had a positive effect on procedural justice. The study was done by directly observing police officers before and after the adoption of BWCs. The researchers found that after deploying and implementing the cameras, officers were significantly more procedurally just than before. That is, they exhibited more fairness and treated people with more respect and dignity than before the cameras were used. Essentially, body-worn cameras have positive impacts on police-citizen encounters.

Read the report [here](#).

## Grants Administration: When can I start buying my body-worn cameras?

Nearly 400 small, rural, and tribal agencies have been awarded micro-grants since the beginning of 2022. If you are among the micro-grantees, your project start date is January 1, 2022. This means that you can sign contracts with vendors and begin the process of purchasing cameras as of January 1. Keep in mind that you need to follow Federal procurement guidelines and obtain three bids for cameras. While you may purchase the cameras, you will not be reimbursed until you successfully complete the BWC policy review process.

## SRT Webinar: Making the Match

May 18, 2022 at  
11am PDT / 1pm CDT / 2pm EDT

This webinar will discuss the match requirement of the micro-grants. Real-life examples will be provided to show what's needed in making the one-to-one match with Federal monies. Micro-grantees are required to attend the webinar. [Register here](#).



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