

Zero tolerance

The term **zero tolerance** refers to [automatic punishment](#) for even mild [violations](#) of certain rules. The policy forbids any consideration of how or why it happened. It is mostly applied to minor offenses by [homeless people](#), and the [disorders](#) associated with them. It is also sometimes used in schools, the [military](#) and businesses.

The first recorded use for the term was 1972, though it might have been used earlier. In certain schools, zero tolerance applies to any [knife](#) regardless of its type. Credible evidence, though, does not support zero tolerance rules having positive effects.^[1] In fact, suspensions may result in embarrassment to schools and students or even bad publicity. The policy has been criticized for violating Law Enforcement Codes.

References

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1. [↑] Rowe, Mary and Corinne Bendersky, "Workplace Justice, Zero Tolerance and Zero Barriers: Getting People to Come Forward in Conflict Management Systems," in Negotiations and Change, From the Workplace to Society, Thomas Kochan and Richard Locke (editors), Cornell University Press, 2002. (<http://web.mit.edu/ombud/publications/index.html>, # 18)

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