

PF v2.0 Fast / Slow Mode Decision Guide (v1.0)

A one-page guide for deciding quickly whether to act in fast mode, switch to slow mode, or take a temporary stabilizing step.

1. Is immediate action needed?

If delay would likely increase avoidable harm, take the smallest reversible stabilizing action. Then record why and schedule review.

A. Fast mode may fit when

- Stakes are low or moderate.
- Effects are reversible or easy to repair.
- Affected people are not losing voice or exit.
- Main risks are already known.
- A brief compatibility scan is enough.
- You can document a minimum trace.

Fast-mode output

Act narrowly. Preserve a short note. Set a review trigger.

2. Are slow-mode triggers present?

If the decision is high-stakes, irreversible, dignity-sensitive, contested, uncertain, or power-concentrated, move toward slow mode.

B. Slow mode is warranted when

- Stakes are high or dignity-sensitive.
- Effects may be hard to reverse.
- Affected people have little voice or exit.
- Disagreement persists or dissent is suppressed.
- Evidence is weak, missing, or contested.
- Power or responsibility is concentrated.
- A lock-in point is approaching.
- Urgency may be produced by incentives or authority.

Rule of thumb

Any severe trigger, or two or more moderate triggers, should push the decision toward slow mode.

3. Choose the mode

Fast mode = brief scan and action. Slow mode = documented review, dissent, alternatives, responsibility mapping, and revisit conditions.

C. Minimum trace before moving

Decision / expression: _____

Why this mode: _____

Affected parties: _____

Main compatibility concern: _____

Main uncertainty: _____

Who is responsible: _____

Revisit or repair trigger: _____

Mode selected

Fast mode Slow mode Temporary stabilizing action + review

Forced urgency check

Ask: Is the urgency real, or partly created by incentives, authority, avoidable delay, or convenience? Who benefits from speed? Who loses voice because of speed?

If unsure

Prefer the smallest reversible action that reduces immediate harm, while creating room for slow-mode review as soon as possible.

This guide is a reasoning scaffold, not certification or moral clearance.