

LEGAL USE OF FORCE

FORCE & DEADLY FORCE

FORCE

- Minimum force required to end a threat
- Force must not exceed the threat

DEADLY FORCE

- Varies in definition from state to state
- Use of force that is likely to, or could cause, the death of another person, even if that person does not die

FOUR RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE

1. Reasonable & immediate fear of death or grave bodily harm
2. Must be an innocent party
3. No lesser force available
4. No reasonable means of escape

USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

**fluid - may not follow exact order*

1. Situational awareness & verbal communications
2. Bodily force to stop the threat
3. Non-lethal weapon options
4. Deadly force

LAWS

DUTY TO RETREAT

- Must withdraw/escape before using force - especially deadly force

STAND YOUR GROUND

- Removes duty to retreat before using force in self-defense

CASTLE DOCTRINE

- Grants the right to use force (including deadly force) against intruders in home

EACH STATE'S LAWS VARY

- It is important to understand your specific state laws
- Scan the QR code below for a free USCCA law map



SELF-DEFENSE DECISION TREE

