

Should I Shoot?		
Is It Legally Justifiable?	Can I Shoot?	Am I Willing to Live with the Consequences?
Immediate Deadly Threat • Immediate - The threat requires a response "right now" to prevent serious injury or death. • Serious Injury - A serious injury will result in a significant impact on quality of life. Innocent Party • You didn't start, or escalate the situation. • Self Defense ◦ One-sided, predator vs prey. ◦ Fighting for survival • Mutual Combat ◦ Both parties enter into conflict willingly (e.g. bar fight) ◦ Fighting for status/pride ◦ Engaging in mutual combat removes your "innocent status" No Lesser Force • The threat cannot be stopped by any other means than to use deadly force. • Deadly force is the only means available or practical to stop the threat. No Means of Escape • It is unsafe or impossible to retreat or escape from the situation. • You are not required to leave others behind. • You are not required to go from a bad situation to a worse one.	Do I possess the physical skills in terms of marksmanship and gun handling to take the shot? Size of the Target • 8 inches - high center chest • 3 inches - headshot Distance from the Target • Shooting "at contact" is different from shooting at a distance. ◦ Contact- weapon retention and unsighted fire ◦ Distance - marksmanship and recoil management Movement of the Target • In a defensive shooting, it's likely you and your attacker will be moving. • Most defensive shooting engagements begin close and spread out. Target Orientation • Can you position yourself to get a clear shot on target? • Target Acquisition • Target Identification • Target Isolation Weapon Accessibility • Can you draw and shoot (before you get shot)?	What are the possible consequences? Prison or Jail Time • Even if you "feel" justified, it doesn't mean the courts will agree. Financial Ruin • The cost of a criminal defense attorney is staggering. • Even if the courts agree that you were justified, you can still get sued. Serious Injury or Death • Even if no charges are filed and you don't get sued, you may still face other consequences for your actions. • You could get yourself hurt or killed. Personal Relationships • Most acts of violence happen between people who know each other, not strangers. • Can you live with shooting someone you know? Someone you care about?

