

Elements of Self-Defense

The person using force had a reasonable belief that s/he was at risk of bodily harm.

The risk of harm was actual or imminent.

The force used was that force reasonably necessary to prevent or stop the infliction of bodily harm.

Self-defense is defined as a person's justifiable use of force against another person when such force is necessary to defend themselves or a third party from what they reasonably believe to be the use, or imminent use, of unlawful physical force.

NOTE: Violence which is retaliatory is not self-defensive. The duty to retreat does not include a duty to flee one's own home.