



# Self-Defence – you and the law

## Know your rights when using force on another person

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1. Every person has the right in law to defend themselves against attack using **reasonable** force.
  2. The circumstances will dictate the level of **reasonable** force required to repel an attack.
  3. It should be noted that the key word to remember is **REASONABLE**.
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### USE OF FORCE - Section 3(1) Criminal Law Act 1967

This paragraph of the Criminal Law Act 1967 deals with the use of force and states that:

A person may use such force as is **reasonable** in the circumstances in the prevention of a crime, or in effecting or assisting in the lawful arrest of offenders, or suspected offenders, or of persons unlawfully at large.

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### USE OF FORCE - Common Law

Within the United Kingdom the use of force by a person upon another is considered unlawful unless used:

1. In self-defence or defence of others.
  2. To save a life.
  3. To effect a lawful arrest.
  4. To prevent a crime being committed.
  5. In stopping or preventing a breach of the peace.
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### JUSTIFICATION FOR THE USE OF FORCE

The force used in any confrontation **MUST** be **REASONABLE** for the resistance encountered

**AND**

Other options of the use of force **MUST** have either been attempted and failed

**OR**

Be considered, by the victim, inappropriate given the prevailing circumstances

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