

\$19.95



# WHEN CAN I LEGALLY SHOOT?

**THE LAW OF DEADLY FORCE IN OHIO**





# I'M CHARGED WITH WHAT?

IF YOU ARE IN THE UNFORTUNATE POSITION TO BE CHARGED WITH A CRIME INVOLVING A FIREARM IN OHIO, HOW SERIOUS IS IT?



## MISDEMEANORS

### FOURTH DEGREE MISDEMEANOR

#### MENACING

Knowingly causing another to believe they, their unborn, property, or member of their immediate family will suffer physical harm.

#### DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM

Without permission from proper officials, discharging a firearm upon or over a cemetery, lawn, park, pleasure ground, orchard, ground appurtenant to a school house, church, or inhabited dwelling, the property of another, or charitable institution or within 100 yards of a cemetery.

### FIRST DEGREE MISDEMEANOR

#### AGGRAVATED MENACING

Knowingly causing another to believe they, their property, unborn, or member of their immediate family will suffer serious physical harm.

#### ASSAULT

Knowingly causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another; OR recklessly causing serious physical harm to another.

#### DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM

Discharging a firearm upon or over a public road or highway.

## FELONIES

### FOURTH DEGREE FELONY

#### AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

When under the influence of sudden passion or in a fit of rage brought on by serious provocation reasonably sufficient to incite the use of deadly force knowingly: causing serious physical harm to another OR causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another by means of a deadly weapon.

### THIRD DEGREE FELONY

#### RECKLESS HOMICIDE

Recklessly causing the death of another.

### SECOND DEGREE FELONY

#### DISCHARGING A FIREARM AT OR INTO A HABITATION OR SCHOOL SAFETY ZONE

Knowingly discharging a firearm at or into an occupied habitation; at, in, or into a school safety zone; OR within 1,000 feet of a school premises with the intent to cause physical harm, panic, or fear to another or to cause the evacuation of the school, school building, or school function.

#### FELONIOUS ASSAULT

Knowingly causing serious physical harm to another or to another's unborn; OR knowingly causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another or another's unborn by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance.

### HOMICIDE VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER

Knowingly causing the death of another or unlawful termination of another's pregnancy while under the influence of sudden passion or in a sudden fit of rage brought on by serious provocation that is reasonably sufficient to incite the use of deadly force.

#### MURDER

Purposely causing the death of another or unlawful termination of another's pregnancy.

#### AGGRAVATED MURDER

Purposely, and with prior calculation and design, causing the death of another or unlawful termination of another's pregnancy.



## PUNISHMENT

**FOURTH DEGREE:** UP TO 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND FINE UP TO \$250

**FIRST DEGREE:** UP TO 180 DAYS IN JAIL AND FINE UP TO \$1,000



## PUNISHMENT

**FIFTH DEGREE:** 6-12 MONTHS IN PRISON AND FINE UP TO \$2,500

**FOURTH DEGREE:** 6-18 MONTHS IN PRISON AND FINE UP TO \$5,000

**THIRD DEGREE:** 9-36 MONTHS IN PRISON AND FINE UP TO \$10,000

**SECOND DEGREE:** 2-8 YEARS IN PRISON AND FINE UP TO \$15,000

**FIRST DEGREE:** 3-11 YEARS IN PRISON AND FINE UP TO \$20,000

**UNCLASSIFIED FELONY (MURDER):** 15 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON AND FINE UP TO \$15,000

**UNCLASSIFIED FELONY (AGGRAVATED MURDER):** LIFE IN PRISON OR DEATH AND FINE UP TO \$25,000

## WHERE THE LAW IS LOCATED Ohio Revised Code



2903.22	2903.21	2903.13	2923.162	2903.12	2903.041	2923.161	2903.11
		2903.03	2903.02	2929.02	2903.01		

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# BY WHAT STANDARD WILL THE LAW JUDGE MY ACTIONS...

IF I USE DEADLY FORCE?

**ACTIONS ARE  
LEGALLY JUSTIFIED**

**IF**

**YOU REASONABLY BELIEVE ANOTHER IS  
ABOUT TO USE...**



**UNLAWFUL, DEADLY FORCE.**



**WHAT IS REASONABLE? WHO DECIDES?**

The law will judge your actions (*i.e.*, use of deadly force) by using a mixed subjective/objective test to determine whether you properly acted in self-defense. That is—are there objective grounds to believe that harm is imminent and did you have a bona fide belief that you were in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm and using deadly force was the only means of escape from such danger? Your state of mind is a crucial issue in deciding whether you were justified. If the legal system (ultimately this could be a jury) determines that you had a bona fide belief that you were in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm and that deadly force was necessary, then you were legally justified in using the force. However, juries, judges, and prosecutors are simply human beings, and people can have vastly different ideas of how a reasonable person should act under any given circumstances. This is particularly true if asked to decide whether deadly force was necessary or not.

*State v. Haines*, 860 N.E. 2d 91 (Ohio 2006)





# WHEN IS IT NOT A CRIME?

## LEGAL JUSTIFICATION OF DEADLY FORCE

### IN OHIO



Legal justification is a set of circumstances that the law says is a valid excuse for a person doing something that would otherwise be a crime.



#### LEGAL JUSTIFICATION OF DEADLY FORCE

YOU



#### LEGALLY JUSTIFIED

Not Guilty of a Crime



#### NOT LEGALLY JUSTIFIED

Guilty of a Crime; Subject to Penalties of the Offense

As a general rule, it is illegal to shoot someone. However, if done under a particular set of circumstances (e.g., self-defense, defense of others, *etc.*), the law states a person is privileged to use deadly force against another.



#### WHAT IS DEADLY FORCE?

**Deadly Force:** Any force that carries a substantial risk that it will proximately result in the death of any person.  
O.R.C. § 2901.01(A)(2)



#### WHAT IS PHYSICAL HARM?

**Physical Harm:** Any injury, illness, or other physiological impairment, regardless of its gravity or duration.  
O.R.C. § 2901.01(A)(3)



#### WHAT IS SERIOUS PHYSICAL HARM?

**Serious Physical Harm:** Any physical harm that carries a substantial risk of death; involves some permanent, or temporary and substantial incapacity; involves some permanent, or temporary and serious disfigurement; or involves any acute pain of such duration as to result in substantial suffering or that involves any degree of prolonged or intractable pain.  
O.R.C. § 2901.01(A)(5)



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# INVOKE YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS!

## WHAT TO DO AFTER BANG!



COUNTLESS MEN AND WOMEN HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES AND FORTUNES SO THAT WE AMERICANS MAY HAVE LEGAL RIGHTS—DON'T WAIVE THEM. IF YOU'RE INVOLVED IN A SHOOTING, YOU MAY NEED EVERY LEGAL RIGHT AVAILABLE.

- Make sure the threat has been controlled.
- Call 911.
- Return the firearm to safe keeping if possible.
- Do not disturb the scene.
- **CALL YOUR LAWYER!**
- When police arrive, comply with all commands in a non-threatening manner, keeping your hands clearly visible. The police do not know who the good guys and bad guys are when they first arrive.
- Inform police that you have been a victim of a crime. State to the police: **"I WISH TO INVOKE MY RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT, AND I WANT TO CONSULT MY ATTORNEY BEFORE MAKING ANY STATEMENTS."**
- Make no statement to anyone about the incident; wait to talk to your attorney.
- If asked to accompany law enforcement, comply, but make no statements.
- Do not make jokes or cute remarks and say nothing, even if you believe you have done nothing wrong.



### THE 911 CALL

If you use your gun, dial 911 and get medical and police assistance. However, the only information that the 911 dispatcher needs to know from YOU is your name, the location of the emergency, what assistance is needed, and that you have been a victim of a crime. **DO NOT DISCUSS WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE OPERATOR!** All calls are recorded.



### DON'T GIVE A STATEMENT

Talk to your lawyer before you make any statements about a shooting. If what you say does not match the physical or material evidence at the scene, you may have a huge problem regardless of how innocent your mistake may be. Your freedom, liberty, and fortune are at risk, so invoke your right to remain silent and your right to a lawyer.



### THE ROLE OF THE POLICE

Law enforcement's main job after a shooting is to investigate. Remember, what you say to the police can and WILL be used against you. *Note:* the U.S. Supreme Court, in 2010, held that a police interrogation may go on indefinitely until you invoke your legal rights - so **INVOKE YOUR RIGHTS!**





# LAW OF SELF-DEFENSE

WHEN CAN YOU LEGALLY USE DEADLY FORCE?

## IN OHIO

DEADLY FORCE IS LEGALLY JUSTIFIED WHEN YOU HAVE A  
BONA FIDE BELIEF THAT YOU ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER OF...



**1**  
AGGRAVATED  
MURDER  
OR AGGRAVATED  
ASSAULT



**2**  
RAPE OR  
SEXUAL BATTERY



**3**  
AGGRAVATED  
ROBBERY



**4**  
AGGRAVATED  
BURGLARY



**5**  
KIDNAPPING



Ohio law provides that you may use deadly force in self-defense if you: (1) are not at fault in creating the violent situation; (2) have a bona fide belief that you are in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm and that the only means of escape from such danger was through the use of such force; and (3) have not violated any duty to retreat or avoid the danger.

*State v. Barnes*, 759 N.E.2d 1240 (Ohio 2002)





# LAW OF DEFENSE OF OTHERS

WHEN CAN YOU LEGALLY USE DEADLY FORCE?

## IN OHIO

DEADLY FORCE IS LEGALLY JUSTIFIED WHEN YOU HAVE A  
BONA FIDE BELIEF THAT A PERSON IS IN IMMINENT DANGER OF...

**YOU**

**VICTIM**

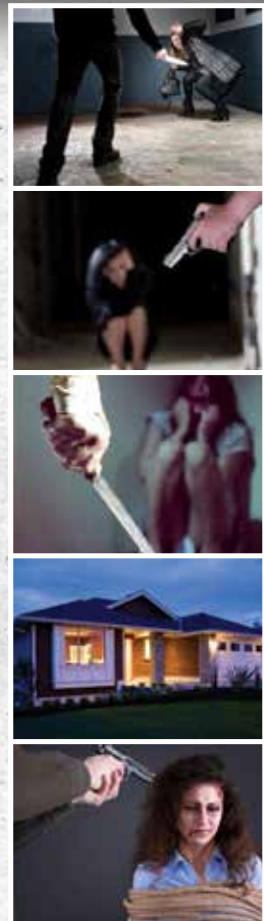
**1**  
AGGRAVATED  
MURDER  
OR AGGRAVATED  
ASSAULT

**2**  
RAPE OR  
SEXUAL BATTERY

**3**  
AGGRAVATED  
ROBBERY

**4**  
AGGRAVATED  
BURGLARY

**5**  
KIDNAPPING



Deadly force is justified to protect another when: the person using deadly force had reasonable grounds to believe and an honest belief that the person being defended was in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm, and that his or her only means of escape from such danger was through the use of deadly force; the person being defended was not at fault in creating the situation; and the person being defended did not violate any duty to retreat to avoid the danger.

*State v. Harris*, 718 N.E.2d 488 (10th Dist. 1988)





# PROTECTION OF YOUR PROPERTY

WHEN CAN YOU LEGALLY USE DEADLY FORCE?

## IN OHIO

**TRESPASSER**

**DON'T SHOOT! Deadly Force is **NOT** Legally Justified!**

**YOU**



**TRESPASSING**

**THEFT / BREAKING  
AND ENTERING**



■ Deadly Force is **NOT**  
Legally Justified



You may use reasonably necessary force but NOT deadly force to defend your property against a trespass, theft, or break-in. *State v. Childers*, 14 N.E.2d 767 (Ohio 1938)

**TRESPASSER**

**Deadly Force **IS** Legally Justified!**

**YOU**

To prevent unlawful force during the commission of an:



**ARSON**

**AGGRAVATED  
BURGLARY**

**AGGRAVATED  
ROBBERY**



Deadly force may only be used to expel an intruder if the person using the deadly force has a reasonable ground to fear that the trespasser will kill or do great bodily harm to him or her. *State v. Willford*, 550 N.E.2d 1279 (Ohio 1990)

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# WHEN CAN YOU PROTECT SOMEONE ELSE'S PROPERTY...

WITH DEADLY FORCE?



## PROTECTION OF A THIRD PARTY'S PROPERTY

- Ohio law does not specifically allow for the use of force to protect another's property.

### HOWEVER

- Deadly force may be used to protect oneself or another from being killed or receiving serious bodily harm while on another's property legally. Deadly force may not be used to protect property alone. *State v. Childers*, 14 N.E.2d 767 (Ohio 1938)



# PROTECTION AGAINST ANIMALS

Ohio law provides a statutory justification and defense to the crime of injuring or cruelty to animals for the use of deadly force against a dog that chases or approaches in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack, attempts to bite or endanger, or kills or injures, you or any other person.



A dog belonging to someone else that is chasing, threatening, harassing, injuring, or killing livestock, poultry, a domestic animal, or any other animal can be killed at the time it is chasing, threatening, harassing, approaching, attempting, killing, or injuring. Interestingly, the statute states you cannot kill a dog that is chasing or attacking another dog or cat. Also, the owner of such a dog is generally liable in damages for any injury, death or loss to a person or property that is caused by the dog. O.R.C. § 955.28



# THEFT AND ROBBERY

## EXPLANATION OF SELECT CRIMES IN OHIO

### IN OHIO



#### THEFT

#### THE CRIME OF THEFT

##### THIEF



O.R.C. § 2913

A person commits theft if the person:

With purpose to deprive the owner of property or services, knowingly obtains or exerts control over property: without consent; by threat; by intimidation; OR by deception.

■ **Deprive:** To withhold property permanently or for a period that appropriates a substantial portion of its value or use, or with the purpose to restore it only upon payment; or to dispose of property making it unlikely the owner will recover it; or to accept, use, or appropriate property with purpose not to provide proper compensation in return and without reasonable justification or excuse.

#### ROBBERY

#### THE CRIME OF ROBBERY

##### ROBBER



O.R.C. § 2911.02

A person commits a robbery if:

**IN ATTEMPTING,  
COMMITTING, OR  
FLEEING AFTER  
A THEFT, THE  
PERPETRATOR...**

+

Has a deadly weapon on or about their person or under their control;

OR

Inflicts, attempts to inflict, or threatens to inflict physical harm on another;

OR

Uses or threatens the immediate use of force against another.

#### AGGRAVATED ROBBERY

#### THE CRIME OF AGGRAVATED ROBBERY

##### ROBBER



O.R.C. § 2911.01

A person commits aggravated robbery if:

**IN ATTEMPTING,  
COMMITTING, OR  
FLEEING AFTER  
A THEFT, THE  
PERPETRATOR...**

+

Has a deadly weapon on or about their person or under their control, and displays, brandishes, indicates that they possess it, or uses it;

OR

Has a dangerous ordnance on or about their person or under their control;

OR

Inflicts or attempts to inflict serious physical harm on another.





# BURGLARY

THE CRIME OF BURGLARY

## IN OHIO



**BURGLARY OCCURS WHEN A PERPETRATOR:**

**BY FORCE, STEALTH,  
OR DECEPTION**



**TRESPASSES IN AN  
OCCUPIED STRUCTURE  
OR SEPARATELY  
SECURED OR OCCUPIED  
PORTION OF AN  
OCCUPIED STRUCTURE**



When a person (other than  
an accomplice) is present;

**AND**

**WITH THE PURPOSE  
TO COMMIT ANY  
CRIMINAL OFFENSE  
IN THE STRUCTURE.**



O.R.C. § 2911.12



**AGGRAVATED BURGLARY OCCURS WHEN A PERPETRATOR:**



**COMMITTS A  
BURGLARY**



**INFLECTS, OR ATTEMPTS OR  
THREATENS TO INFLECT PHYSICAL  
HARM ON ANOTHER;**

**OR**

**HAS A DEADLY WEAPON OR  
DANGEROUS ORDNANCE ON OR  
ABOUT THEIR PERSON OR UNDER  
THEIR CONTROL.**



O.R.C. § 2911.11



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# ASSAULT

THE CRIME OF ASSAULT

## IN OHIO

### ASSAULT OCCURS WHEN:

#### PERPETRATOR



O.R.C. § 2903.13

Knowingly causes or attempts to cause physical harm to another;

OR

Recklessly causes serious physical harm to another.



### AGGRAVATED ASSAULT OCCURS WHEN:

#### PERPETRATOR



O.R.C. § 2903.12

Under the influence of sudden passion or in a sudden fit of rage brought on by serious provocation reasonably sufficient to incite the use of deadly force...



Knowingly causes serious physical harm to another;

OR

Knowingly causes or attempts to cause physical harm to another with a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance.

### FELONIOUS ASSAULT OCCURS WHEN:

#### PERPETRATOR



O.R.C. § 2903.11

Knowingly causes serious physical harm to another;

OR

Causes or attempts to cause physical harm to another with a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance.



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# DO I HAVE TO RETREAT?

AM I LEGALLY REQUIRED TO RETREAT?

## IN OHIO

■ The words “Stand Your Ground” are not found in the Ohio Revised Statutes. “Stand Your Ground” is the popular name for a legal doctrine referred to in the law as “No Duty to Retreat.” The Ohio version of the “Stand Your Ground” law is located in O.R.C. § 2901.09.

# OHIO

## LAW PROVIDES

### NO RETREAT IS LEGALLY NECESSARY

### IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ARE MET:



You are lawfully in your residence; OR



You are lawfully in your own vehicle; OR



You are a lawful occupant in a vehicle owned by an immediate family member.



O.R.C. § 2901.09

**Note:** If you are not in one of these locations, you have a duty to retreat or avoid the danger by leaving the scene before using deadly force.



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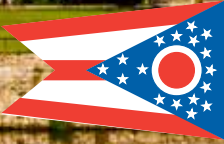
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# THE CASTLE DOCTRINE

## USE OF DEADLY FORCE UNDER THE CASTLE DOCTRINE IN OHIO

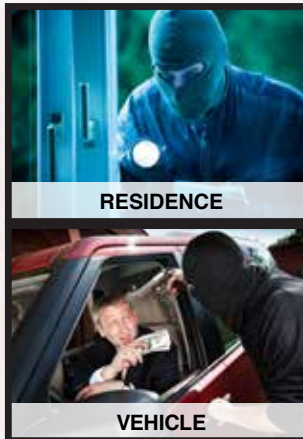


The words “Castle Doctrine” are not found in the Ohio Revised Statutes. The “Castle Doctrine” is the popular name for a legal philosophy that every person, as the “King” or “Queen” of their own home, never has to flee the castle before using deadly force against an intruder.

### WHEN DO I GET THE PROTECTION OF THE “CASTLE DOCTRINE?”

#### IF

An intruder is in the process of unlawfully and without privilege entering or has entered your occupied...



#### THEN

Ohio law gives you the legal presumption that you justifiably acted in self-defense or the defense of another when using defensive deadly force.



O.R.C. § 2901.05

### KEY LEGAL TERMS

**Residence:** A dwelling in which a person resides either temporarily or permanently, or is visiting as a guest.

**Vehicle:** A conveyance of any kind, whether or not motorized, that is designed to transport people or property.  
O.R.C. § 2901.05(D)(2)-(4)



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# WHERE AM I LEGALLY ALLOWED TO CARRY?



LOCATION		WITH LICENSE Loaded & Concealed Handgun	WITHOUT LICENSE Loaded & Concealed Handgun
	A person's own home.	✓	✓
	A person's own motor vehicle.*	✓	✓
	Public places not otherwise specifically prohibited by law.	✓	✗
	On private land or premises where a sign prohibiting the carry of firearms is posted in a conspicuous location.	✗	✗
	Police station, sheriff's office, state highway patrol station, or premises controlled by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation.	✗	✗
	A facility operated by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.	✗	✗
	School safety zone except for CCW holders who may carry into zone. If person leaves vehicle, gun must remain in vehicle and vehicle must be locked.	✓	✗
	On the premises of or at an open air arena for which a Class "D" liquor permit has been issued, as long as one is not consuming alcohol or under the influence.	✓	✗
	The buildings or grounds of the State Capitol, without express written permission, except a handgun may be stored in a locked motor vehicle parked in the state underground parking garage.	✗	✗
	At a child day-care center or type A/B family day-care home.**	✓	✗
	In a government facility building that is not used primarily as a shelter, restroom, parking facility for motor vehicles, or rest facility and is not a courthouse or building or structure in which a courtroom is located.	✗	✗
	U.S. Post Office, VA hospital (including parking lots), or other place not permitted by federal law.	✗	✗
	Any premises owned or leased by any public or private college, university, or other institution of higher education (unless the handgun is in a locked motor vehicle or a licensee is in the immediate process of placing the handgun in a locked motor vehicle or unless otherwise authorized by the administration).	✗	✗
	Courthouse, or building or structure in which a courtroom is located.***	✗	✗
	"Secure" areas of an airport.	✗	✗
	State correctional institution, jail, workhouse, or other detention facility.	✗	✗
	Polling places unless the location of the polling place is an otherwise prohibited location.****	✓	✗
	Church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship, unless posted or permitted otherwise.	✗	✗
	Casinos and other gambling facilities.****	✓	✗

\* For non-license holders, a concealed firearm may not be carried on an individual's person, must be unloaded and either: in a closed box or case, in an inaccessible compartment from within the vehicle, or in plain sight and secured on rack or holder for that purpose.

\*\* Unless the day-care facility posts signage indicating "no guns allowed" or the like.

\*\*\*Court house facilities may legally enact a program authorizing on premises carry wherein the permit holder transfers possession of the handgun to an officer in charge but such facilities are not required to do so.

\*\*\*\* May be subject to administrative regulations.



# CIVIL LIABILITY

YOU'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET

## TWO INDEPENDENT LEGAL SYSTEMS

### CRIMINAL SYSTEM



**THE STATE  
vs.  
YOU**

Seeking  
to Deprive Freedom



### CIVIL SYSTEM

**ANOTHER  
vs.  
YOU**



Seeking  
Monetary Compensation



## § THE LAW

Ohio law provides a certain degree of immunity if you have justifiably used defensive force or deadly force. The Ohio Revised Code § 2307.60 (B)(2)(c) provides that a bad guy who was injured or killed while committing, or attempting to commit, a felony or violent misdemeanor crime cannot recover in a tort action against you if the force or deadly force was used in self-defense, defense of another, or defense of your residence.

If you or your property are injured by another's criminal act, you may be able to recover full damages, court costs and attorney's fees from the perpetrator under Ohio Revised Code § 2307.60 (A)(1).

## ⊘ WHAT IT'S NOT

It is a common misconception that if you have used justified force or deadly force that the law provides complete protection or "immunity" from the civil legal system. It does not. It is NOT an immunity from people suing you.

In addition, if the criminal justice system has not made a determination of your justification for the use of deadly force, the issue will have to be decided by a civil trial judge and/or jury. Thus, the necessity for this determination of justification will force you deeper into the civil law system.



*Note to  
U.S. LawShield® Members:*

**All of Your Attorneys'  
Fees are Covered for Both the  
Criminal and Civil Systems.**

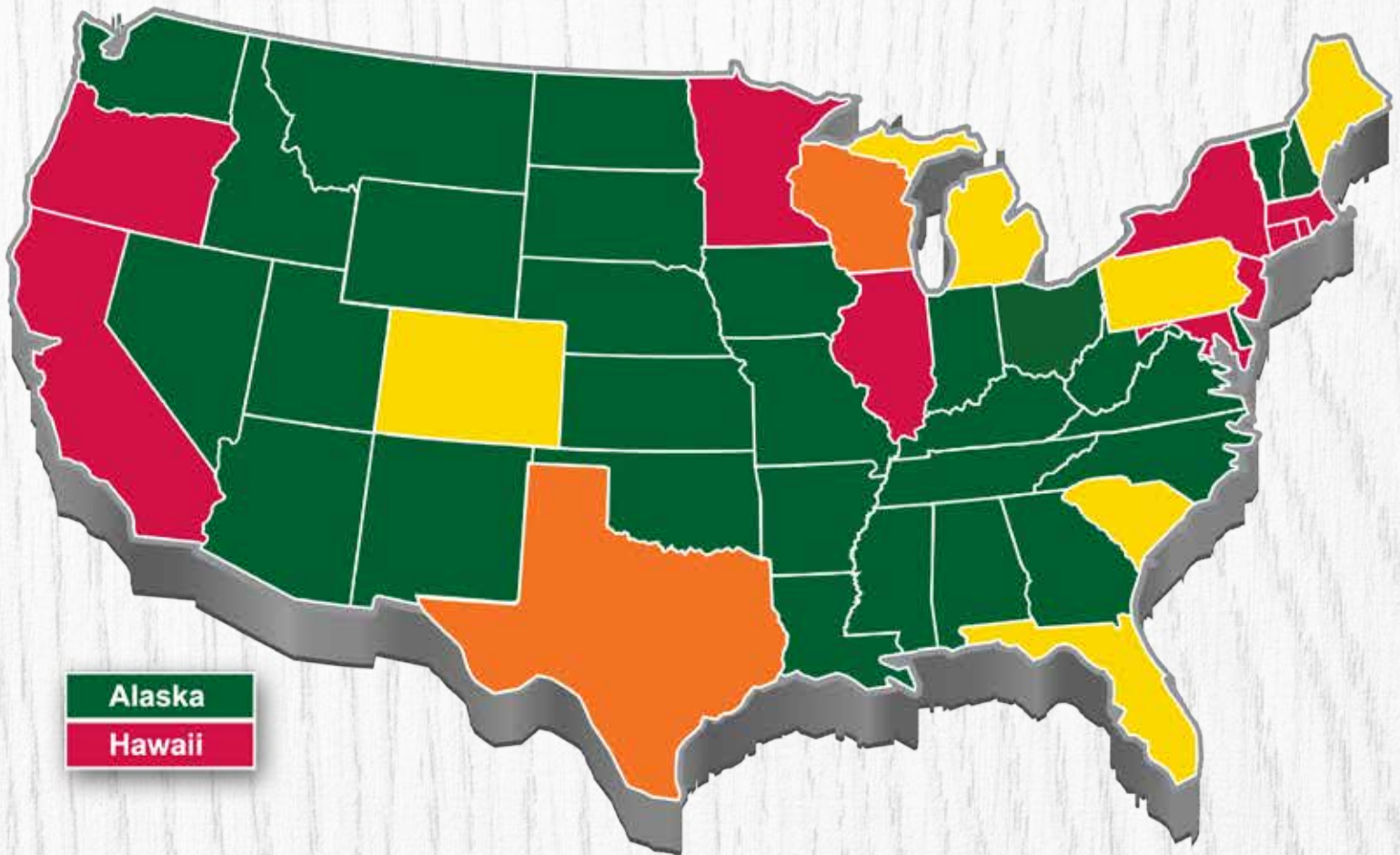
**WE DEFEND YOUR  
RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS**





# OHIO RECIPROCITY MAP

## Which States Recognize An Ohio License To Carry A Concealed Handgun?



-  Recognizes Ohio license or does not require a license
-  Does not recognize Ohio license
-  Recognizes Ohio resident license
-  Recognizes Ohio license issued or renewed after 3/22/15 only

This list changes frequently, please visit <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Law-enforcement/Concealed-Carry> for an updated list and check with local authorities before carrying in other States.





# TRAVEL AND FIREARMS

IF YOU ARE NOT IN OHIO



## YOU ARE LEAVING OHIO

Ohio and Ohioans are unique in this world. If you think otherwise, try getting Cincinnati chili anywhere outside Ohio. As you might expect, gun laws in Ohio are also unique. Our state's firearms laws, in some manners, are more restrictive than other states by comparison. In other circumstances, Ohio laws are less restrictive. If travel plans take you beyond the borders of the Buckeye State, and you wish to continue exercising your 2nd Amendment rights in one of the other states in the Union, familiarize yourself with that state's laws! When you are in another state, you are subject to that state's laws. There is no standardization of gun laws within the 50 individual states (not to mention Indian Reservations). Even states that are thought of as "gun friendly" can have peculiar quirks in their firearm laws. For example:

### MICHIGAN

Michigan regulates the transport of firearms on snowmobiles. You are not permitted to transport a firearm in an off-road vehicle (snowmobiles included) unless the firearm is locked and cased.

### NEW YORK

Firearms possession in New York is limited to New York resident licensees. Without a New York permit, even possessing a handgun in your vehicle is prohibited unless you are "passing through" the state. Use extreme caution when traveling to New York.

### PENNSYLVANIA

No permit is required to openly carry a loaded handgun in a belt holster in most public areas. However, an individual may not carry a handgun without a permit in Philadelphia and may not enter a vehicle with the loaded handgun.



## EACH STATE HAS DIFFERENT GUN LAWS

The firearms laws of the various states are usually found on that state's chief law enforcement department or attorney general website. If you are traveling to or through a state that does not honor an Ohio license, it is imperative that you check the laws of that state concerning legally traveling with a firearm. In states that do not recognize an Ohio license, a good general rule when traveling is to unload, lock, and stow your firearm in a locked trunk or other area that is not accessible to the driver. Take the time to know the law!





# NOTES



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## WHAT IS U.S. LAWSHIELD?

The U.S. LawShield Legal Defense Program is a program dedicated to preserving the Constitutional rights to self-preservation for all persons in Ohio and ensuring legal representation for our members who have to use a firearm or other legal weapon. In addition, a cornerstone of our program is education in self-defense law. An informed citizenry is essential to preserve our country's rich heritage and all of our rights. Our company and the self-defense program are owned and administered by lawyers dedicated to preserving the legal rights of our members when they use a firearm or other legal weapon.

### HOW TO PROPERLY USE YOUR BOOKLET ON DEADLY FORCE

This booklet is a guide to when you may or may not use deadly force in the State of Ohio, it demystifies the criminal process, attempts to explain some otherwise murky legal concepts, and most importantly, helps you identify when you may use deadly force to defend yourself, others, or property. Prepared by a team of lawyers and legal professionals, this book is the result of extensive legal research and real-world experience dealing with the system. It was written by lawyers who work in this area on a daily basis, who have extensive experience in firearms and the law relating to firearms. This wealth of knowledge has been distilled into this booklet, which provides concepts and rules of law in a simple and understandable format.

With that said, this book is not a substitute for a lawyer. Many volumes of books have been written on these topics, and one could spend many lifetimes studying these complex issues of law. As such, we have attempted to condense these points into a digestible format that can be read within a reasonable timeframe, but there are complex nuances in the laws that are not all covered. This booklet is not all encompassing. This booklet is instead, an aid, a starting foundation helping you with the first steps of your journey to understand the legal system and laws pertaining to the use of deadly force.

Any of the information in this manual is solely a general legal discussion of the law of Ohio and should not be considered as giving legal advice, nor creating an attorney-client relationship. This manual is not a substitute legal advice on any particular situation. Your situation may be different so contact an attorney regarding your personal circumstances. Only a licensed attorney may give you legal advice. Please call our office for more information  
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