

What you should know about the Law of Self-defense

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Particularly since the Trayvon Martin case in Florida there has been an increase in discussion of self-defense laws in America. Even here we have had readers post comments on the topic and some in particular indicate a lack of understanding of the law. Gun control proponents often resort to distortions to attack such laws.

It is important to understand, in spite of what Barack Obama and Eric Holder say, that the issue is seldom a federal issue. Rather it is a state issue. That is to say, self-defense in most instances is regulated by the law in a particular state where the incident happened. Only very rarely do such incidents present a substantial federal issue. So to really understand the Law of Self Defense one must look at a particular state.

However, there are some common characteristics among the various state self-defense jurisprudence. Recently a debate of these laws was sponsored by the Cato Institute. Below is a video of that debate. We commend it to you as the best source of understanding these laws that we have been able to find.