

Arizona Revised Statutes §13-411 – Justification for Use of Force in Crime Prevention

Arizona law allows a person to use physical or deadly force without criminal liability if they reasonably believe it is immediately necessary to prevent certain serious crimes.

Key Provisions

A. Justified Acts

A person is justified in threatening or using both physical force and deadly physical force against another if, and to the extent, they reasonably believe that force is immediately necessary to prevent the other from committing:

- Arson of an occupied structure (§13-1704)
- Burglary in the second or first degree (§13-1507 or §13-1508)
- Kidnapping (§13-1304)
- Manslaughter (§13-1103)
- Second or first degree murder (§13-1104 or §13-1105)
- Sexual conduct with a minor (§13-1405)
- Sexual assault (§13-1406)
- Child molestation (§13-1410)
- Armed robbery (§13-1904)
- Aggravated assault (§13-1204, subsec. A, para. 1 & 2) [Arizona Legislature+1](#)

B. No Duty to Retreat

There is **no duty to retreat** before using the force described in subsection A. This means you may act immediately without first attempting to escape or avoid confrontation [Arizona Legislature](#).

C. Reasonableness Presumption

If a person acts to prevent what they reasonably believe is the imminent or actual commission of any of the offenses listed in subsection A, they are **presumed to be acting reasonably** for the purposes of this section [Arizona Legislature](#).

D. Scope of Application

The section applies to the use or threatened use of physical or deadly force in:

- A person's home, residence, place of business
- Land the person owns or leases
- Any conveyance (vehicle, etc.)

- Any other place in Arizona where the person has a right to be [Arizona Legislature](#)

Practical Implications

- **Immediate necessity** is key — the force must be needed right now to stop the crime.
- **Reasonable belief** is based on what a reasonable person in the same situation would believe.
- **No retreat rule** means you can confront the threat without first trying to get away.
- The law covers both **physical force** (e.g., pushing, striking) and **deadly force** (e.g., shooting, stabbing).

This statute is part of Arizona's broader self-defense and crime prevention provisions, and it is designed to protect individuals from serious violent or property crimes without requiring them to retreat first.

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