



**Proportionality:**  
Just enough but, not too  
much

# How much is too much?

**Proportionality - Using force that's reasonable, and not excessive relative to the imminent threat. (simplified) .**

**Proportionality** - falls under a huge umbrella that can most easily be referred to as the continuum of force. It is our best attempt at governing how force should be legally applied and evaluated in the aftermath of an incident. Your force must be reasonable and proportional to be justified.

**Your force must match the level of threat you face.**

This does not mean the technique or tool must be the same as theirs or have the same injury potential. The THREAT is a reference to the potential outcome, **not** the mechanism.

Generally if someone is making verbal threats you can't use lethal force to stop them. If someone slaps you, you can't use lethal force to stop them.



## Why say "generally?"

There are always exceptions, but that is the basic idea. Using force slightly above the present threat is usually viewed as acceptable. Jurisdiction and local climate have an impact and must be known by YOU. Case law, statutes (federal, state, local), logic, and reasonableness all fall under the umbrella.

**What you do, is not as important as WHO you did it to and WHERE you did. Unfortunately.**

### **An Example to consider:**

If a person is physically pushing you during an argument without using a weapon or causing serious harm, responding with a firearm would be excessive and disproportionate, as the level of force (lethal) far exceeds what is necessary to stop the minor threat (non-lethal shoving).

Now could we add some detail to the example to make it justified? Yes. And that is why it is a difficult subject to understand.



## Understanding the text is not enough

Even if you are a seasoned counselor and know the text like the back of your hand, it does not mean you are capable of applying the knowledge in real-time under stress.

**This is a huge problem we see with people who live behind a desk judging the ones who do the work in the aftermath.**

As a potential **USER**, you must become proficient at applying the knowledge under stress, knowing the text won't be enough.

Scenario-based training with physical consequences is the best development path. Our coursework has full-spectrum scenarios, where you must justify your actions in the aftermath.

I can't tell you the value of participating and observing these scenarios.



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## Becoming the gray man - OCBD

Finally, good shirting is really what being a “**gray man**” is all about.

Get rid of industry logo t-shirts and board shorts. Wear nice jeans with **NO** holes, shoes that **cover your feet**, and something like an Oxford cloth button down (OCBD). Fly under the radar opposed to a person who observably lives in gun culture. You are just another -after hours officer worker- a “**gray man.**”



Personally I’m a OCBD type of guy and recently posted on the ‘Gram about my latest choices. Take a gander.

Until next time, stay dangerous ShivFolk!



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