

13-404. Justification; self-defense

- A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, a person is justified in threatening or using physical force against another when and to the extent a reasonable person would believe that physical force is immediately necessary to protect himself against the other's use or attempted use of unlawful physical force.
- B. The threat or use of physical force against another is not justified:
  - 1. In response to verbal provocation alone; or
  - 2. To resist an arrest that the person knows or should know is being made by a peace officer or by a person acting in a peace officer's presence and at his direction, whether the arrest is lawful or unlawful, unless the physical force used by the peace officer exceeds that allowed by law; or
  - 3. If the person provoked the other's use or attempted use of unlawful physical force, unless:
    - (a) The person withdraws from the encounter or clearly communicates to the other his intent to do so reasonably believing he cannot safely withdraw from the encounter; and
    - (b) The other nevertheless continues or attempts to use unlawful physical force against the person.