

- VEST FIRST RESPONDER -

HELP FOR HEROES

NEVADA

Self-Defense Law Reference Guide

*Stand Your Ground | Castle Doctrine (Dwelling and Occupied Vehicle) | Civil Immunity | First Responder
Sentencing Enhancement | Police Use of Force*

CERTIFIED TRAINER SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENT

Intended exclusively for VEST Certified Trainers. Not a substitute for legal counsel.

Nevada has been a de facto Stand Your Ground state since the 1870s - long before modern Stand Your Ground legislation was enacted in Florida and other states. Nevada's self-defense laws are codified in NRS Chapter 200, with NRS 200.120 serving as the foundation for both Stand Your Ground and Castle Doctrine principles. Nevada also provides civil immunity under NRS 41.095, and has a uniquely powerful first-responder protection provision in NRS 193.1677 that adds up to 20 years of additional imprisonment for crimes against first responders - separate from and in addition to the base sentence.

STATUTE	SUBJECT MATTER
NRS 200.120	Stand Your Ground; Castle Doctrine (Occupied Dwelling, Occupied Vehicle)
NRS 200.130	Reasonable Fear Requirement; Rebuttable Presumption
NRS 200.160	Justifiable Homicide - Additional Circumstances
NRS 200.200	Self-Defense as Justification
NRS 41.095	Civil Immunity for Justified Use of Deadly Force
NRS 193.1677	First Responder Sentencing Enhancement - Up to Additional 20 Years
NRS 200.471	Assault - Enhanced Penalties for Attacks on Officers and Firefighters
NRS 200.481	Battery - Enhanced Penalties for Attacks on Protected Persons

PART I: THE NEVADA SELF-DEFENSE STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

NRS 200.120 - Stand Your Ground and Castle Doctrine

NRS 200.120 is Nevada's foundational self-defense statute, governing justifiable homicide and encompassing both Stand Your Ground and Castle Doctrine principles. Homicide is justifiable under NRS 200.120 when committed in resisting any attempt to murder the person, any attempt to commit a forcible felony upon them, or any other felony accompanied by use of force or violence.

"Justifiable homicide is the killing of a human being in necessary self-defense, or in defense of habitation, person, or property, against one who manifestly intends or endeavors, by violence or surprise, to commit a felony, or against any person or persons who manifestly intend and endeavor, in a violent, riotous, tumultuous or surreptitious manner, to enter the habitation of another for the purpose of assaulting or offering personal violence to any person dwelling or being therein... A person is not required to retreat before using force... if the person: (a) Is not the original aggressor; (b) Has a right to be present at the location where deadly force is used; and (c) Is not actively engaged in conduct in furtherance of criminal activity at the time deadly force is used." - NRS 200.120

Nevada's no-duty-to-retreat rule has been part of Nevada law since the 1870s - one of the earliest Stand Your Ground principles in any state. The three conditions - not the original aggressor, right to be in the location, and not engaged in criminal conduct - mirror the modern Stand Your Ground framework adopted by other states decades later.

NEVADA'S CASTLE DOCTRINE UNDER NRS 200.120:

- Occupied habitation - dwelling, home, apartment, hotel room, RV, tent, or any occupied residential space.

- Occupied motor vehicle - ambulance, fire apparatus, or any occupied vehicle.
- The vehicle or habitation must be OCCUPIED for the Castle Doctrine presumption to apply.
- No duty to retreat from these protected spaces when facing a violent intruder.

AMBULANCE AS OCCUPIED VEHICLE - NEVADA'S PROTECTION:

NRS 200.120's Castle Doctrine covers occupied motor vehicles. An ambulance or fire apparatus that is occupied by EMS/fire personnel qualifies. A violent forced entry into an occupied Nevada ambulance triggers the Castle Doctrine protections under NRS 200.120. Combined with the State's general no-duty-to-retreat rule, Nevada EMS crews have strong legal protection when attacked in or near their vehicles.

NRS 200.130 - Reasonable Fear; Rebuttable Presumption

NRS 200.130 establishes that 'bare fear' of offenses is not sufficient to justify killing - there must be circumstances sufficient to excite the fears of a reasonable person, and the person must have actually acted under those fears and not in a spirit of revenge. This reasonable-person standard is comparable to the objective reasonableness test in most other states.

NRS 41.095 - Civil Immunity

Nevada provides civil immunity for persons who use deadly force in a lawful manner to protect themselves, others, or their home or vehicle from an intruder. A person who successfully claims civil immunity under NRS 41.095 cannot be sued for personal injury or wrongful death by the person against whom force was used.

PART II: DUTY TO RETREAT - NEVADA'S POSITION

Nevada has NO duty to retreat. Nevada's no-retreat rule has been part of state law since the 1870s - predating modern Stand Your Ground legislation by over a century. The conditions are identical to contemporary Stand Your Ground statutes: not the original aggressor, lawfully present, not engaged in criminal activity.

- No retreat required anywhere a person is lawfully present and not engaged in criminal activity.
- Castle Doctrine covers occupied dwelling and occupied motor vehicle.
- Civil immunity available for justified deadly force under NRS 41.095.
- Exception: Original aggressors lose the no-retreat protection.
- Exception: Persons engaged in criminal activity at the time of the incident.

PART III: FIRST RESPONDER ASSAULT - NRS 193.1677 SENTENCING ENHANCEMENT

NRS 193.1677 - First Responder Sentencing Enhancement (Additional 1-20 Years)

"Any person who willfully violates any provision of NRS 200.030 [murder], 200.471 [assault], 200.481 [battery]... because of the fact that the victim is a first responder may, in addition to the term of imprisonment prescribed by statute for the crime, be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 20 years." - NRS 193.1677(1)

Nevada's first-responder protection is structured as a SENTENCING ENHANCEMENT rather than a standalone enhanced offense. This means: (1) the person is convicted of the base offense (murder, assault, battery, etc.) under its normal statute; (2) if the crime was committed BECAUSE the victim was a first responder, the court may impose an ADDITIONAL 1 to 20 years of imprisonment. This enhancement is separate from and in addition to the base sentence.

'First responder' is explicitly defined in NRS 193.1677 to include peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel. The enhancement applies when the crime was committed 'because of' the victim's first-responder status - meaning the attacker's knowledge of and response to the victim's role as a first responder motivated the crime.

- 1-20 additional years added to the base sentence when the crime was motivated by the victim's first-responder status.
- Applies to murder, assault, battery, robbery, and other enumerated offenses under NRS 193.1677.
- Court must consider stated factors including nature of the crime, the first responder's injuries, and other relevant information.
- NRS 193.1678 extends the same enhancement to crimes against spouses or children of first responders.

NRS 200.471 and 200.481 - Assault and Battery on Protected Persons

Nevada's assault and battery statutes also provide enhanced penalties when the victim is a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or emergency care provider on duty. Under NRS 200.471, assault on a protected person (including firefighters and EMS) when the attacker knows or should know the victim's status is elevated to a Category B felony (1-6 years) when it involves the use of a deadly weapon. Under NRS 200.481, battery on a protected person similarly carries elevated penalties.

NEVADA'S DUAL FRAMEWORK - CONVICTION PLUS ENHANCEMENT:

Nevada's approach creates a dual framework: first-responder assault carries elevated base penalties under NRS 200.471 and 200.481, and additionally, if the crime was motivated by the victim's first-responder status, NRS 193.1677 adds up to 20 more years on top of any sentence received. This is among the most aggressive first-responder protection sentencing frameworks in any state in this series.

PART IV: POLICE USE OF FORCE & NECK RESTRAINT FRAMEWORK

Nevada does NOT have a statewide statutory chokehold ban. Police neck restraint policy in Nevada is governed by the Nevada Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) and individual agency use-of-force policies.

- NO statewide statutory chokehold or carotid restraint ban as of 2024-2025.
- Nevada POST training standards classify neck restraints as high-risk techniques subject to the deadly force justification standard.
- Many Nevada agencies, including the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), have adopted internal policies restricting or prohibiting chokeholds.
- No criminal penalty provision for unauthorized chokehold use at the state statutory level.

FIRST RESPONDERS VS. LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Nevada's law enforcement use-of-force standards do not apply to civilian first responders in personal self-defense. A Nevada paramedic or firefighter defending their life is evaluated under NRS 200.120 and 200.200. There is no statutory restriction on civilian Nevada first responders using any defensive technique in genuine life-safety self-defense.

PART V: APPLYING VEST PRINCIPLES UNDER NEVADA LAW**1. Nevada's No-Retreat Rule Predates Modern Stand Your Ground by a Century**

Nevada's no-duty-to-retreat principle has been part of state law since the 1870s - one of the oldest such provisions in the country. Every Nevada first responder has the legal right to stand their ground at any lawful location without any retreat obligation. VEST training reinforces this right through scenario-based decision making and the graduated force continuum.

2. Occupied Ambulance Carries Castle Doctrine Protection

NRS 200.120's Castle Doctrine covers occupied motor vehicles. VEST compartment security and vehicle lockdown protocols support the factual record for this protection. When an ambulance is occupied by EMS crew and faces a violent forced intrusion, the Castle Doctrine applies.

3. The Sentencing Enhancement Needs to Be Communicated

NRS 193.1677's 1-20 additional years for crimes against first responders because of their status is a powerful deterrent. VEST trainers should communicate this legal reality to participants - attackers who target first responders because of their role as emergency personnel face not just the base sentence but an additional 1-20 years on top of whatever they receive for the underlying offense.

4. De-Escalation Is Legally Sound in Nevada

Nevada's reasonable-fear standard requires genuine belief that force was necessary. VEST Level I de-escalation curriculum creates the record that force was a last resort, supporting the NRS 200.120 justification and the NRS 41.095 civil immunity claim.

5. Partner Defense Is Covered

NRS 200.120 covers defense of another person under the same no-retreat and reasonable-fear standards as self-defense. VEST Level III partner defense training is directly supported by this statute.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This document is produced by VEST First Responder LLC for educational and trainer development purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice. Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 200; NRS 41.095; NRS 193.1677 are subject to legislative amendment, and individual incidents are always fact-specific. VEST Certified Trainers and their agencies should consult with a licensed attorney, their medical director, and agency legal counsel before developing or delivering formal use-of-force or defensive tactics policies.

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