

authorized use of defensive force

aggressor status

Was defendant at fault (i.e., the aggressor)?

degree of force

Did defendant act with murderous intent (i.e., deadly force)?

Was defendant attacked with deadly force (or reasonably believe so)?

defensive force not authorized

deadly force authorized; no duty to retreat

defendant may return blow for blow.

Did adversary respond to defendant's assault with deadly force?

proportional response

deadly force authorized, conditional

Did defendant withdraw and give notice to his adversary?

defendant may return blow for blow.

defensive force not authorized

reclaiming the privilege