



CCP

COUNTER CRIME PARTNERSHIP

WHAT IS REASONABLE FORCE?

SECTION (3) CRIMINAL LAW ACT 1967

(1) A PERSON MAY USE SUCH FORCE AS IS REASONABLE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE PREVENTION OF CRIME, OR IN EFFECTING OR ASSISTING IN THE LAWFUL ARREST OF OFFENDERS OR SUSPECTED OFFENDERS OR OF PERSONS UNLAWFULLY AT LARGE.

INSIGHT

"When I learnt to ride a Motorbike, a million years ago, one of my Instructors was a Traffic Police Officer called Peter ROBDRUP and he used an analogy that I will share with you - Progressive Breaking is like Reasonable Force in the Police; you use as much as you need to stop...." [Scott PEPPER, Counter Crime Manager](#)

SUBJECTIVE TEST

IF TESTED, THE COURT WOULD ASK YOU: WHAT WAS YOUR BELIEF AT THE TIME? [HOW DID YOU FEEL? DID THE SITUATION ESCALATE? WHERE YOU IN DANGER?]

OBJECTIVE TEST

THEN, THEY WOULD ASK THEMSELVES, IS THAT REASONABLE?

SELF DEFENCE

IF THE PERSON BECOMES UNCONTROLLABLE, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE RETREAT. IF YOU HAVE TO DEFEND YOURSELF, THE KEY PRINCIPLES ARE:

- YOU CAN DEFEND YOURSELF AND OTHERS.
- THE FORCE MUST BE [NECESSARY](#) IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES AS YOU BELIEVE THEM TO BE.
- THE LEVEL OF FORCE USED MUST BE [PROPORTIONATE](#) TO THE THREAT FACED.
- SELF DEFENCE IS A COMPLETE DEFENCE, WHICH MEANS, IF ARGUED SUCCESSFULLY, YOU WILL FACE NO CRIMINAL LIABILITY.

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