



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 14 - BURGLARY AND OTHER HOUSEBREAKINGS

N.C.G.S. § 14-51.3.

Use of force in defense of person; relief from criminal or civil liability.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	No amendment history on record	21 September 2026, 04:20 UTC	6d7a3bb7773475776bfbb6ed - 02f50a91508ab3a2ac6fd882 - 63e2779f27e8000a

§ 14-51.3(a) A person is justified in using force, except deadly force, against another when and to the extent that the person reasonably believes that the conduct is necessary to defend himself or herself or another against the other's imminent use of unlawful force. However, a person is justified in the use of deadly force and does not have a duty to retreat in any place he or she has the lawful right to be if either of the following applies:

- (1) He or she reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another.
- (2) Under the circumstances permitted pursuant to G.S. 14-51.2.

§ 14-51.3(b) A person who uses force as permitted by this section is justified in using such force and is immune from civil or criminal liability for the use of such force, unless the person against whom force was used is a law enforcement officer or bail bondsman who was lawfully acting in the performance of his or her official duties and the officer or bail bondsman identified himself or herself in accordance with any applicable law or the person using force knew or reasonably should have known that the person was a law enforcement officer or bail bondsman in the lawful performance of his or her official duties. (2011-268, s. 1.)

APPARATUS II
1 AUTHORITY

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 14-51.2	(a)(2)	"Under the circumstances permitted pursuant to"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-51.3 (2026).

PINPOINT
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-51.3(a) (2026).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers; subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

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