



CHAPTER 14  
ARTICLE 14 - BURGLARY AND OTHER HOUSEBREAKINGS

N.C.G.S. § 14-51.4.

Justification for defensive force not available.

| 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, 04:55 UTC | 3dc16c5f379a10021d08daae - 32e5827c11d67379c59fc5fa - 13139fdef27b541b |

The justification described in G.S. 14-51.2 and G.S. 14-51.3 is not available to a person who used defensive force and who:

Was attempting to commit, committing, or escaping after the commission of a felony.

Initially provokes the use of force against himself or herself. However, the person who initially provokes the use of force against himself or herself will be justified in using defensive force if either of the following occur:

- a.The force used by the person who was provoked is so serious that the person using defensive force reasonably believes that he or she was in imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm, the person using defensive force had no reasonable means to retreat, and the use of force which is likely to cause death or serious bodily harm to the person who was provoked was the only way to escape the danger.
- b.The person who used defensive force withdraws, in good faith, from physical contact with the person who was provoked, and indicates clearly that he or she desires to withdraw and terminate the use of force, but the person who was provoked continues or resumes the use of force. (2011-268, s. 1.)

END OF SECTION TEXT APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II  
2 AUTHORITIES

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.

|              |                                                      |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| G.S. 14-51.2 | <i>"The justification described in"</i>              |
| G.S. 14-51.3 | <i>"justification described in G.S. 14-51.2 and"</i> |

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-51.4 (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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