

Colorado Statutes – Quick Reference for Security Guards

C.R.S. 18-1-704 – Use of Physical Force in Defense of a Person

Allows force to defend yourself or a third person from unlawful physical force.

Force must be reasonable and no more than necessary under the circumstances.

Deadly force only when you reasonably believe a lesser degree of force is inadequate and you face an imminent threat of death, serious bodily injury, kidnapping, or certain violent crimes.

C.R.S. 18-1-704.5 – Use of Deadly Physical Force Against an Intruder (“Make My Day”)

Applies to occupants inside a dwelling (home or similar).

Deadly force allowed against an unlawful intruder when you reasonably believe:

- The intruder committed or intends to commit a crime in addition to the entry, and
- The intruder might use any physical force, however slight, against an occupant.

Provides immunity from criminal prosecution and civil liability if conditions are met.

C.R.S. 18-1-705 – Use of Physical Force in Defense of Premises

A person in control of or lawfully on premises may use reasonable and appropriate force to prevent or stop an unlawful trespass.

Deadly force is still governed by 18-1-704; you cannot use deadly force just to protect premises.

C.R.S. 18-1-706 – Use of Physical Force in Defense of Property

Allows reasonable and appropriate force to prevent theft, criminal mischief, or criminal tampering with property.

Deadly force under this section is only justified as allowed in 18-1-704 (defense of person).

C.R.S. 18-12-105 – Unlawfully Carrying a Concealed Weapon; Unlawful Possession of Weapons

Makes it a crime to knowingly and unlawfully carry a concealed knife or firearm, or possess a firearm in certain locations without legal authority.

Contains exceptions for being in your own dwelling, place of business, or private vehicle for lawful protection.

C.R.S. 18-12-105.5 – Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon on School, College, or University Grounds

Prohibits knowingly and unlawfully possessing a deadly weapon on the real estate or buildings of any public or private school, college, or university without legal authority.

Generally a felony-level offense with more serious penalties than ordinary concealed carry violations.

C.R.S. 18-12-106 – Prohibited Use of Weapons

Prohibits aiming a firearm at another unlawfully, reckless or negligent discharge of a firearm, setting loaded traps or explosive devices, or possessing a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.

Typically charged as a misdemeanor but still serious for employment and licensing.

C.R.S. 18-4-407 – Questioning of Person Suspected of Theft Without Liability

Allows a merchant, merchant's employee, or peace officer acting in good faith and on probable cause to detain and reasonably question a person who triggers an alarm or conceals unpurchased goods.

Provides limited protection from civil and criminal liability for false arrest/imprisonment when the detention is reasonable in manner and time.

C.R.S. 18-8-112 – Impersonating a Peace Officer

A person commits this offense by falsely pretending to be a peace officer and performing an act in that role.

Class 5 felony (as amended), with significant prison and fine exposure.

Security officers must clearly present themselves as private security, not law enforcement.