

SVF 1450. Imperfect Self-Defense.

(LOCATION) JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, [_____ DEPARTMENT,]
IN AND FOR (COUNTY) COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH

THE STATE OF UTAH,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

(DEFENDANT'S NAME),

Defendant.

:
:
:
:
:

**SPECIAL VERDICT
IMPERFECT SELF-DEFENSE**

Count (#)

Case No. (**)

Having found the defendant, (DEFENDANT'S NAME), guilty of [Aggravated Murder][Attempted Aggravated Murder][Murder][Attempted Murder], as charged in Count [#],

We unanimously find that the State:

☐ has

☐ has not

proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the defense of imperfect self-defense DOES NOT apply.

Check ONLY ONE of the boxes.

DATED this _____ day of (Month), 20(**).

Foreperson

References

State v. Lee, 2014 UT App 4

State v. Ramos, 2018 UT App 161

State v. Navarro, 2019 UT App 2

Committee Notes

Whenever imperfect self-defense is submitted to the jury:

- In addition to other applicable imperfect self-defense instructions, use CR1451 (amended as appropriate);
- Use the “Special Verdict Imperfect Self-Defense” special verdict form;
- Do not include “imperfect self-defense” as a defense in element #3 above;
- Do not use an “imperfect self-defense manslaughter” elements instruction;
- Always distinguish between “perfect self-defense” and “imperfect self-defense” throughout the instructions; and
- Add the following paragraph at the bottom of this elements instruction:

“If you find Defendant GUILTY beyond a reasonable doubt of murder, you must decide whether the defense of imperfect self-defense applies and complete the special verdict form concerning that defense. Imperfect self-defense is addressed in Instructions _____.”

Last amended – 10/1/2025