

SVF 1450. Imperfect Self-Defense.

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

THE STATE OF UTAH,	:	
	:	SPECIAL VERDICT
Plaintiff,	:	IMPERFECT SELF-DEFENSE
	:	
-vs-	:	Count (#)
(DEFENDANT'S NAME),	:	
Defendant.	:	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 ([see CR510 through CR543](#)), use CR1451, 1452, and 1453 (~~amended as appropriate~~);
- ~~Always distinguish between perfect and imperfect self-defense throughout the instructions;~~
- ~~Use the “Special Verdict Imperfect Self-Defense” special verdict form (SVF 1450);~~
- ~~Imperfect self-defense is a defense to only four crimes: aggravated murder, attempted aggravated murder, murder, and attempted murder. It is not a defense to manslaughter or attempted manslaughter;~~
- ~~Do not include as an element for aggravated murder, attempted aggravated murder, murder, or attempted murder: “The defense of “imperfect self-defense” does not apply;” 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~~
- ~~Instead, a~~ Add the following paragraph at the bottom of [the aggravated murder, attempted aggravated murder, murder, or attempted murder](#) ~~this~~ elements instruction:

“If you find Defendant GUILTY beyond a reasonable doubt of [[Aggravated Murder](#)] [[Attempted Aggravated Murder](#)] [~~m~~[Murder](#)] [[Attempted Murder](#)], you must decide whether the [State has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the defense of imperfect self-defense does not apply](#)ies and complete the special verdict form concerning that defense. Imperfect self-defense is addressed in Instructions _____.”

Last amended - ~~01/07/2026~~[10/1/2025](#)

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