



# 5 CRITICAL HOME-DEFENSE LESSONS

KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR RESPONSIBLE ARMED CITIZENS IN MARYLAND

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## 1. NO DUTY TO RETREAT DOES NOT MEAN UNLIMITED FORCE

Inside the home, Maryland does not require retreat. But deadly force is justified only when you reasonably believe it is necessary to stop an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm.

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## 2. THE KEY QUESTION IS JUSTIFICATION

The fact that someone broke into your home does not automatically justify shooting. The issue is whether your actions were reasonable at the exact moment force was used.

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## 3. HOLD A STRONG POINT

In many situations, the safer choice is to gather family, barricade if possible, call 911, and defend a strong point rather than move through the house searching.

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## 4. SEARCHING THE HOUSE CAN LOOK LIKE HUNTING

Leaving a place of safety and moving room to room with a firearm can increase legal, tactical, and moral risk. After a shooting, it may be portrayed as pursuit rather than defense.

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## 5. PROPER TRAINING IS ABOUT JUDGMENT

Responsible training teaches more than marksmanship. It teaches restraint, communication, decision-making under stress, and moving only when necessary to protect innocent life.



**PROTECT YOUR FAMILY. CREATE DISTANCE. CALL 911.  
HOLD A STRONG POINT. DEFEND INNOCENT LIFE ONLY  
IF THE THREAT COMES TO YOU.**

