



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on August 8, 2023

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## **Exercising the Right**

### **Don't Mess With Grandpa**

KOAMNewsNow.com reported on July 19 about a home break-in in McDonald County, Missouri. A man and his grandfather were returning home when they discovered a vehicle in their driveway. Out of an abundance of caution, one of the two returning homeowners decided to arm himself before entering the house. The grandfather and grandson discovered that a stranger had barricaded himself in a bathroom inside the house, and was armed with a gun he stole from the house. He shot at the grandfather and grandson through the bathroom door. The armed homeowner fired back at the burglary suspect, hitting him multiple times in the legs. Once the suspect was wounded by the gunshots, the "homeowners were able to then disarm the burglar and hold him until deputies arrived," McDonald County Sheriff Rob Evenson explained.

Law enforcement did state that the suspect was known by authorities, which indicates that he might have had a criminal past and that police were not surprised by his actions. The suspect was treated at a nearby medical facility. Police investigators recommended that the prosecutor charge the suspect with "Burglary, Assault 1st Degree and Armed Criminal Action." Sheriff Evenson further stated that he was grateful "that the homeowners were not injured in this incident." It is not likely any charges will be filed against the homeowners, since their actions appear to be justifiable under the applicable law.

### **Four Men vs. One Woman**

Fox News reported on July 16 about a Philadelphia woman who returned to her apartment in the middle of the night and discovered four burglars inside. The woman was armed and, in fear for her life, opened fire at the suspects, hitting at least two of them. All the burglars immediately fled from the apartment, but one didn't get far and collapsed on the ground nearby.

The woman called 911, and police encountered the woman standing in front of her apartment near the injured suspect, who was lying on the ground with multiple gunshot wounds. The Philadelphia Police Department released a statement to Fox News explaining that "a confrontation ensued and the complainant shot the offenders, who then fled from that location."

The first wounded suspect was treated for gunshot wounds to his arm and leg. Police soon found another wounded suspect not far from the scene; he was taken for treatment and is in stable condition. Police told Fox News that both suspects have been charged with burglary, and that "the woman's motive was to defend herself while a criminal trespass and burglary were being committed." The investigation is ongoing, and police are hoping to identify the two other suspects.

### **Self-defense in the Front Yard?**

Fox 10 reported on an incident out of Magnolia Springs, Alabama, in which a man forced his way into a neighbor's house on the morning of July 11. Baldwin County sheriff's deputies explained that 54-year-old Noah Hastings broke in to his neighbor's house through a back door, pushed past the homeowner's daughter, and began fighting with the homeowner. The two men apparently didn't know each other, and had no prior conflicts. Captain Andre Reid of the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office told Fox 10 that the homeowner was "under the impression that [the neighbor] was going to assault or do harm to [the



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homeowner's family].... That was what they truly believed and so, getting him out of the house at that point was priority one for them."

Hastings was forced from the house, but then he allegedly began destroying his neighbor's property while making threatening remarks. The homeowner retrieved a firearm, and went out to confront Hastings. At this point, police say, Hastings was standing on his own property, but made a threat to kill the homeowner. As Captain Reid explained, "Once he made it out into the front yard, he ended up destroying some property out front. The homeowner went back out front to confront him about that. He was armed at that point and Mr. Hastings picked up one of the items he had broken and held it up to our homeowner and indicated he was going to kill him."

Investigators believe that at this point the homeowner was reasonably in fear for both his life and the life of his loved ones, so he shot Hastings, mortally wounding him. Reid said he believes the homeowner acted well within his rights and that he had no choice but to defend himself, and police do not plan to bring any charges against him. Reid did stress that the investigation is ongoing, and that the police will "keep compiling all of our information, all of our data. We'll keep reviewing that. If something changes in the meantime, then we'll change but until that happens, what we'll do is just get all that information together, send that case off to the DA's Office and the Grand Jury and let them review this death."

It should be noted that Alabama is a "stand your ground" state, which means that the self-defense laws in the state do not require a duty to retreat. In this instance, the homeowner did not have any obligation to retreat from Hastings before using lethal force.

## **Guardians on Campus**

Anti-gun fanatics howled when President Donald Trump suggested that arming teachers in schools might be a good way to deter future school shootings. It appears that President Trump's vision is becoming a reality in Groesbeck, Texas. KCenTV.com reported on July 17 that a local school district is implementing the "Texas Guardian Plan," which allows teachers to carry concealed firearms at schools. Superintendent Anthony Figueroa explained that "guardians" are volunteers who have gone through special training and met all other requirements to be armed. He explained that the "School Safety 'Guardian' Program," which is permitted under state law, provides "students and faculties an armed self-defense option prior to the arrival of Law Enforcement in the event of an active shooter or 'active killer' on campus."



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