

From the Office of the Sheriff: “Are you ready to carry concealed?”

Ever since Gov. Scott Walker signed the Concealed Carry Legislation, people have highlighted November 1st on their calendar. This is the date in which you may first apply for your CCW permit. I have been a supporter of CCW legislation for many years and even though some features of the new law may not be perfect, I feel it is a far better product than one debated years ago. While many potential permit applicants have read the legislation there are two things I would suggest you read above and beyond the specific CCW law.

The first is state statute 939.48 Self-Defense and Defense of others. This state statute lays out the foundation for citizens “to threaten or intentionally use force against another for the purpose of preventing or terminating what the person reasonably believes to be an unlawful interference by another person.” The statute states “you may intentionally use only such force of threat thereof to prevent or terminate the interference.” Should you be a CCW permit holder and in possession of your weapon, and you observe or perceive a threat or use of force upon another, you now have about 3-5 seconds to decide whether to act or not act. Remember, you are no longer on the range!

You will flashback to your CCW training while you un-holster your weapon. You take aim, you make an immediate note - the sight picture looking over your handgun barrel is different. No longer a paper target on the other end, this is real, the sight picture frames a live human being - it looks different. You didn't sweat or shake at the range - but now can't stop. On the range if you missed the paper target your bullet would innocently lodge into an earthen berm not an innocent bystander. You decide to engage and miss, he turns and shoots you and others because you shot at him. I call this a game changer. Are you ready? Do you have the mental and emotional capacity to take another human beings life? Can you deal with the aftermath?

Can you interfere on behalf of or defend a third party? Yes, but you must reasonably believe the third party would act accordingly should they have the opportunity and your intervention is necessary for protection of the third party.

So you are getting a CCW permit to protect your home and property. You can do that now without the new legislation and act in accordance with State Statute 939.49 Defense of Property. This is your second supplemental reading I would recommend. This statute requires the following to be met prior to you taking any action. It states, “A person is privileged to threaten or intentionally use force against another for the purpose of preventing the interference with ones property.” It is the second half of the paragraph in which you must fully comprehend. “Only such degree of force or threat thereof may be used, as the actor (you) reasonably believe is necessary to prevent or terminate the interference.

My hope is should you choose to apply for a CCW permit that you take the process seriously, that you seek out the most rigid of training not the easiest, and you fully comprehend the status you elevate yourself to should you choose to interfere with a person who is threatening to use force or has the ability to use force, specifically, force which can cause great bodily harm or death to another. I would highly encourage annual range visits, shooting day, night, and during various weather conditions. And remember, you still will not be able to replicate the stress factor of intentionally killing another. Thanks for listening tnehls@co.dodge.wi.us.