

Defences

Law

The general defences, and what each requires.

Defence and basis.

Defence	Basis
Self-defence	Reasonable force in the circumstances believed
Duress	Threat of death or serious injury
Necessity	Avoiding a greater evil
Insanity	Disease of the mind at the time
Automatism	Involuntary conduct
Intoxication	Limited; rarely a full defence

Educational reference. Duress is generally unavailable for murder. Availability and definitions vary by jurisdiction.