



ETHICAL ISSUES

Shoot or Don't Shoot?

Suppose you live in a state that has embraced the Castle Doctrine. Late one night you are settling down for the evening in your bedroom. Suddenly you hear the sound of breaking glass and footsteps in your kitchen down the hallway. It is clear an intruder has come into your home.

What would you do? Would you confront the offender? Would you use a weapon? If you have a firearm, would you shoot first and ask questions later? Could it be a friend coming over uninvited? At what point would you call 911?

What if you have children sleeping in the rooms adjacent to you? Or your elderly parents are staying with you? Or there are pets in the house? Does this change what you would do?

Does the implementation of the Castle Doctrine influence the course of action you chose? How do the ethics about taking the life of another person influence your actions?