

DEFENSIVE DISPLAY OF FIREARM. ShastaDefense.com 10 27 2025

If you ever have to Defensively Display your firearm it is critical that you keep muzzle discipline – **DO NOT** let your muzzle cross people you are not yet directly threatened by (i.e., threatened with great bodily injury or death). If you are not directly threatened with death or great bodily injury, do not threaten deadly force. (Source: Armed Citizens Legal Defense Network). Premature drawing of your firearm may place you at risk of being viewed as the initial aggressor, and potential criminal prosecution.



An illustrative option for defensive display is shown above. This shows a defensive display which is along that continuum extending from the gun being holstered and not visible, to the opposite end of such continuum where the gun has been drawn and is pointed directly at the deadly threat. Different factual situations may require different responses. You must not robotically practice drawing and automatically pointing the gun at a threat. This defensive display may be appropriate where there is a preponderance of the evidence that the person is a danger to you here and now (threat of death / great bodily injury) and if you don't draw your gun you will be behind the action / reaction curve. However, given that situation, your use of deadly force may still not yet be justified and therefore you have not pointed the gun at a person.

This illustration seeks to show to the public that you are not the aggressor. Further, you have not yet pointed your gun at the threat, but you are communicating that you are prepared to do so. This may serve to aid in avoiding the actual use of deadly force.

You may have to shoot from this position but should also practice transitioning to a two handed grip (both hands on gun) which provides greater recoil control, better aim (accuracy), and retention. The amount of extension would depend on the facts and circumstances.