

Snopes.com.

State laws on resisting arrest. As of 25 April 2018.

[Alabama](#) - specifies "lawful" arrest

[Alaska](#)

[Arizona](#)

[Arkansas](#) - illegality is not a defense

[California](#)

[Colorado](#) - explicitly states illegality of arrest is not a defense

[Connecticut](#) - explicitly states illegality of arrest is not a defense

[Delaware](#)

[Florida](#) - specifies lawful for both violent and non-violent resistance.

[Georgia](#) - specifies "lawful discharge" of duties

[Hawaii](#)

[Idaho](#)

[Illinois](#)

[Indiana](#) - specifies lawful

[Iowa](#) - belief that arrest is illegal is not a defense

[Kansas](#)

[Kentucky](#)

[Louisiana](#)

[Maine](#) - belief that arrest is illegal is not a defense

[Maryland](#) - specifies lawful

[Massachusetts](#) - legality of arrest is irrelevant

[Michigan](#)

[Minnesota](#)

[Mississippi](#) - specifies lawful

[Missouri](#) - legality of arrest is irrelevant

[Montana](#) - legality of arrest is irrelevant

[Nebraska](#) - defense where officer was out of uniform and/or did not identify themselves as an officer before making arrest, and anyone convicted of assaulting a police officer can raise self-defense in their defense, if an officer may have used excessive force in the arrest.

[Nevada](#)

[New Hampshire](#) - legality of arrest is irrelevant

[New Jersey](#) - legality of arrest is irrelevant

[New Mexico](#)

[New York](#) - specifies "authorized" arrest

[North Carolina](#)

[North Dakota](#) - defense if officer was acting illegally, but no defense if arrested person mistakenly believed the officer was acting illegally. Officer acting in good faith is acting legally. (i.e. officer must have knowingly acted unlawfully for there to be a defense of unlawful arrest.)

[Ohio](#) - specifies lawful

[Oklahoma](#)

[Oregon](#) - legality of arrest is irrelevant

[Pennsylvania](#) - specifies lawful

[Rhode Island](#) - legality of arrest is irrelevant

[South Carolina](#)

[South Dakota](#)

[Tennessee](#) - illegality of arrest is not a defense, but there is a self-defense [defense](#) where an officer is using "greater force than necessary"

[Texas](#) - illegality of arrest is not a defense

[Utah](#) - specifies lawful

[Vermont](#) - specifies lawful, but says mistaken belief that arrest was unlawful is not a defense.

[Virginia](#) - specifies lawful

[Washington](#) - specifies "lawfully"

[West Virginia](#) 61-5.17

[Wisconsin](#) - specifies "lawful authority"

[Wyoming](#) - specifies lawful