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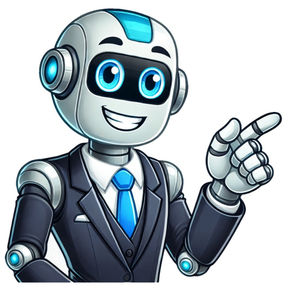

Professional fighters have a significant advantage if they were to get into a fight outside of a ring. With their training and background, the average person would be no match against them in a fight. Do boxers and MMA fighters have to register their hands as deadly weapons? The idea that a professional boxer or MMA fighter would have to register their hands is a myth. Professional fighters do not need to register their hands or any other body part as a dangerous weapon. However, if they were to get into an altercation they could be charged with a higher crime and held to a higher standard in court. Below we will talk in more detail about professional fighters registering their hands and what consequences they could face in court. Boxers and MMA fighters do not need to register their hands as lethal weapons. There isnt a legal obligation that any professional fighter will need to register any of their body parts. It is unclear where the myth started. There is a belief that Joe Lewis paid the police or someone to impersonate the police, to show up before a fight to register his hand as deadly weapons. It is more likely that this is just prefight bragging by fighters that has caught on and is now believed by the general public. Boxing is about the show and any psychological advantage you can get over your opponent would be an advantage in the ring. Intimidating or at least attempting to intimidate them could give you an advantage when you do meet in a ring. In Post World War II General MacArthur did ban martial arts and military training for a short time frame in Japan. Judo and Kendo were targeted for banning specifically. Karate, however, was considered a gentlemans sport and not banned and allowed to be taught in Japanese Universities. The ban only lasted a few years and was never spread outside of the country. Regardless if they are required to register or not, a professional fighters hands can still be considered a deadly weapon in court. Due to their training and background, professional fighters can receive higher charges if they were to attack someone on the streets. A simple misdemeanor assault charge can be charged as a felony assault if it is committed by a professional fighter. Professional fighters could face murder charges if they do kill someone during the assault. In 2015 professional MMA fighter Jamal Parks was charged with assault with a deadly weapon because of his background in MMA. Jamal Parks assaulted his friend after an argument and subsequently assaulted the police after they arrived also. He pled guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 6 years in prison. Professional fighters still have the right to protect themselves if they are attacked. As with anyone else they must use the amount of force that is appropriate to defend themself. If someone attacks them they are permitted to fight back, but only as much is necessary. They are not permitted to continue to attack the assailant after the threat was neutralized. They would not be permitted to cause an undue force to stop the attacker. If they do use excessive force they could be charged for the injuries they cause. As with everyone, an MMA fighters could find themselves civilly liable for any excessive damage they would cause for any people or property they cause damage to even if they are not found criminally charged again. In some states, they can still be held liable for the damage even if the other person is completely at fault. This would force them to pay a considerable amount of money for compensation. There is no clear legal definition of when a professional fighter would be considered a deadly weapon. It is usually directed at the defendant in a case that has committed an assault but that is not a guarantee. A professional fighter that was attacked could still be charged depending on the damage and unnecessary assault they have committed. It is also unclear and would be looked at on a case-by-case basis. In the Jamal Parks case, the reasoning behind labeling his hands as deadly weapons was the intent and manner that they were used. The indictment stated that in the manner they were used they were capable of causing death or serious bodily injury. By this calculation, whoever committed the assault would just have to show above-average ability for their hands to be considered deadly weapons. You need to know what the state laws are for defending yourself. 28 States have various forms of stand-your-ground laws. 23 of those states have civil immunity in some self-defense instances. Regardless of the laws of the state, you should not attack unless you are being attacked. You do not have to wait for them to assault you first but avoiding conflict is the best way to keep yourself and others safe. Only use the appropriate force to negate your attacker. Once they are no longer attacking you, you need to stop the attack on them also. It is a myth that professional fighters need to register their hands as deadly weapons. There is no legal precedent that would require them to register their hands or any other part of their body. They could face greater charges if they were to assault anyone. Their hands could be considered deadly weapons in a court, which could bring misdemeanor assault charges increased to felony assault with a deadly weapon. Professional fighters do have the right to defend themselves if they are assaulted. They could be held criminally and civilly liable for any excessive physical or property damage they would cause in the process. They would need to limit their defense to only what is necessary and stop the fighting when their attacker quits assaulting them. Please note this article does not constitute legal advice, its simply for informational purposes, you should always consult a qualified professional when it comes legal matters. So your wondering do martial artists have to register their hands as deadly weapons? Well help you better understand that today.Martial arts techniques are applied in a systematic way for self-defense, military and law enforcement, and physical, mental and spiritual development.Martial artists are trained to confront and defeat imminent threats of bodily harm or death.We all have a right to defend ourselves, even skilled martial artists. Heres what you need to know about protecting yourself in a fight legally if youre an experienced martial arts practitioner.When are Hands Considered Deadly Weapons?While its entertaining to watch movie stars play martial artists who must register as deadly weapons, there is no state with laws that require this.Its only in the U.S. territory of Guam that martial art experts are required to register:Any person who is an expert in the art of karate or judo, or any similar physical art in which the hands and feet are used as deadly weapons, is required to register with the Department of Revenue and Taxation. Guam Ann. Code Title 10 Ch. 62 62100 Its against Guams laws not to register if youre trained as a martial artist. Once registered, if youre convicted of using martial arts to physically assault another person you are automatically guilty of aggravated assault.Widely-practiced forms of martial arts include: AikidoBrazilian Jiu-JitsuJudoKarateKrav MagaKung FuMuay ThaiTae Kwon DoTang Soo DoMixed Martial Arts Body Parts As Deadly WeaponsAlthough you wont have to register your hands, you dont have to be a professional fighter or have martial arts training for your hands or feet to be categorized as a deadly weapon in a criminal assault case. Case Example: Man Guilty of Using Hands as Deadly Assault WeaponThe North Carolina Supreme Court upheld a lower courts finding that the defendants hands were considered deadly weapons that he used to beat and choke his girlfriend.In this case, evidence shows that defendant is six feet two inches tall and weighs one hundred sixty-five (165) pounds, while the victim is a female approximately five feet three inches tall and weighing ninety-nine (99) pounds.An assailants hands may be considered deadly weapons for the purpose of the crime of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury depending upon the manner in which they were used and the relative size and condition of the parties. State v. Rogers,153 N.C.App. 203, 211,569 S.E.2d 657, 663 Self-Defense: When to Pull Your PunchesUsing your martial arts skills outside the confines of your dojo or fitness center can have serious repercussions, including potential criminal and civil liability.In self-defense, the purpose of martial arts is to protect oneself or another person from an imminent threat of bodily injury or death.The martial artist must be fully aware of the consequences of intentionally or unintentionally misusing their skills. A misuse of skills can result in criminal prosecution, a civil judgment, or both.Specifically, you must understand the legal difference between a controlled, necessary, and proportionate force to repel an attack and an excessive and disproportionate force.In other words, you must only use the amount of force necessary to protect yourself. Using excessive force can land you in civil court on assault and battery charges.Each case of self-defense is reviewed individually and subjectively, though in some cases the threat is so real and imminent as not to be questioned. If a would-be robber comes at you with a six-inch switchblade, the imminent threat of grave harm is obvious.Martial Arts in Protection of OthersThe right to defend yourself is legally extended to the protection of others. You may use your martial arts skills to protect another person from the imminent threat of harm or death.Whether youre protecting a child or family member, or acting as a Good Samaritan on behalf of a stranger, the same rules of reasonableness apply. You must only use the amount of force necessary to dispel the threat.Neutralizing the ThreatTo reduce the likelihood of misusing your martial arts skills, first make every attempt to diffuse and neutralize a threat without violence.If youre unable to neutralize an aggressor without force, or if there isnt enough time to diffuse the threat, then you can safely use your martial arts skills to repel the attacker.Make sure you use only the amount of force necessary to repel the assault. For example, if the robber with the switchblade got his arm broken as you disarmed him, thats probably reasonable. Once the robber is down and disarmed, inflicting further injury is excessive.Criminal Charges for Using Martial ArtsYou are criminally liable when you wrongfully and willfully use your skills to repel an attack that is non-existent, minimal, or not imminent.A person who is held criminally liable for excessive and disproportionate use of force may be arrested and charged with criminal assault. Misdemeanor assault can result in a probationary sentence, a fine of several hundred dollars, or incarceration in a county jail for one or two years.Felony assault charges can result in a fine of several thousand dollars and long-term incarceration in a state or federal penitentiary, or in the event of death, it could result in life imprisonment.Police Involvement and Criminal ProsecutionThe police may become involved in a dispute because someone called 911, the victim files a complaint, or the police rolled up on a fight in progress.Police may proceed with any of the following actions:Make an arrest at the scene of the fightComplete a police report, including information on the parties martial arts or boxing skills, military training, or similar experienceTurn over the investigation to the district attorney, county attorney, or attorney generalA prosecutor may proceed with any of the following actions:Dismiss the case due to insufficient evidence to prosecuteIssue an arrest warrant for the alleged assailantSubmit the case to the grand jury because the severity of the case qualifies as a felonyNotable Cases Involving Martial ArtsAnthony Knox Sr.: A trained mixed martial artist, Knox Sr. was charged with simple assault after allegedly stomping and kicking a spectator during a high school wrestling tournament brawl. His son, also involved, faced similar charges.Liam Michael Dowie: Dowie, a martial artist, was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison for multiple assaults on his partner, including using a chokehold technique learned through martial arts training.Examples of Criminal Liability vs. Appropriate ForceLets say you are a black belt Taekwondo practitioner. You and your friend Sue are driving out of a restaurant parking lot when you collide with Toms car. No one is physically hurt, and the damage to the vehicles is minimal.While surveying the damage, Tom screams at you and Sue, threatening to beat the tar out of you and file a lawsuit against you.Appropriate Levels of Response:You remain calm and offer to exchange insurance information. Tom calms down. You acted appropriately by neutralizing the situation.You realize that Tom is drunk and overcome his attempt to physically attack you by knocking him to the ground with one strike. You acted appropriately by using proportionate force to repel the attack.Tom takes a swing at Sue, and you thwart his attempt to physically attack Sue by knocking him to the ground with one strike and rendering him momentarily unconscious. You acted appropriately by defending Sue with proportionate force to repel the attack.Tom grabs a lead pipe from his car and is about to strike you and Sue. You overcome his attempt to physically attack by striking Tom repeatedly, causing him to fall to the ground. While Tom is unconscious, you call 911. You acted appropriately by using proportionate force to repel Toms obvious intent to inflict serious bodily injury.Tom pulls out a long knife and lunges at you. After knocking Tom to the ground, you and Sue run to your vehicle. Tom comes at you with the knife. This time, you strike Tom repeatedly and consequently kill him. You acted appropriately by usingproportionate force to defend yourself and Sue from an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death.Criminal Use of Excessive Force:Tom is cursing and threatening but stays away from you. You use your Taekwondo skills to seriously injure Tom because he has threatened to hurt you physically. You overreacted to a benign threat and are now subject to arrest and criminal prosecution.Tom pulls out a long knife and lunges at you. You disarm Tom by breaking his arm. Once hes down and disarmed, you grab his head and twist, breaking his neck and killing him. Your continued use of force after the attacker was neutralized exposes you to prosecution for aggravated assault and manslaughter.What is Your Civil Liability for Injuries?You are civilly liable when you act in a negligent, willful, or wanton manner that results in another persons injuries or property damage.You may not be criminally liable for your disproportionate or excessive use of force, but the person who suffered injuries may file a lawsuit against you in a civil court for damages.Damages can include medical and therapy bills, out-of-pocket medical expenses, lost wages, and an amount for pain and suffering. Damages can also include the costs of ruined property like clothing, eyeglasses, and cell phones.Burden of ProofIn a criminal trial, the two parties are the government and the person accused of breaking the law. The accused person is only found guilty if there is enough evidence of the persons wrongdoing beyond a reasonable doubt.In a civil trial, the parties are the allegedly injured person, and the person accused of negligently or purposely causing the injuries. The party with the preponderance of the evidence, meaning the most proof of their side of the story, wins the case.Keep in mind that in a civil case youll be in front of a jury who may have misconceptions about martial arts and assume you must be a super-ninja. You can bet the lawyer for the other guy will work to make you look like a dangerous weapon.Case Example: Civil Liability for Excessive ForceYou are an experienced MMA fighter. One day, upon leaving your gym, youre confronted by two drunk and aggressive men demanding your wallet. They threaten to hurt you. Although you dont see any weapons, you believe they will seriously harm you, and you fear for your safety.You knock both men to the ground with your MMA skills. One of them runs away, but the other remains on the ground. After several minutes, he starts to get back up, so you attack him, causing serious bodily harm, including a broken arm and nose, cuts to his eyes, and a concussion.Following your attack, you call 911. The paramedics take the man to the hospital. Later, hes criminally charged with attempted robbery. You do not face criminal charges, as the police investigation determined you acted in self-defense of a crime.After the injured mans criminal trial, he files a $100,000 personal injury lawsuit against you. The lawsuit alleges that you used unnecessary, disproportionate, and excessive force to inflict serious bodily injury and that your actions amount to willfully negligent conduct.During the trial, the jury hears all of the evidence, including testimony from you, both men who attempted to rob you, the police officers, and the paramedics. You testify that you are an MMA expert with five years of cage fighting experience.The jury decided the injured man was partially at fault for his injuries because he tried to rob you. However, the jury decided you are also to blame because you used excessive force when it wasnt necessary.You could have easily left the scene after you initially subdued the attackers. Instead, you remained at the scene for several minutes after the threat had been neutralized, and willfully caused serious bodily injury. Understanding Shared Civil LiabilityHow does a robber get to sue you if he gets hurt in the process? In most states, individuals have a right to seek compensation for their injuries, even when they are to blame for the circumstances.The injured robber wouldnt have been able to get a dime in Alabama, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, thanks to their contributory negligence rules.Modified comparative fault is used in most states. In these states, the other person wont be eligible to recover any compensation if they are equally to blame or more to blame than you. If they can proceed with the claim, their compensation will be reduced according to their shares of fault.Stand Your Ground Doctrine: No Duty to RetreatCommonly known as the Stand Your Ground doctrine, 25 states allow the use of reasonable force, including deadly force, to protect your own life or the life of another person without having to retreat from the place you occupy at the time of the real or perceived threat.You do not have to be in your own home, so long as you have a legitimate reason to be there.On the other hand, six states have decided your attacker can still sue you, even if the person you hurt was convicted of attacking you in the first place: Hawaii, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Dakota, and Tennessee.Castle Doctrine: Defense of HomeThe Castle Doctrine allows a person who is in their home or vehicle to use reasonable and proportionate force, including deadly force, against an intruder to prevent the intruder from forcibly entering the residence or vehicle.According to the Castle doctrine, the occupant must legitimately and reasonably believe that the intruder intends to commit a felony and that deadly force is necessary to repel the intruder.Most states prohibit the use of deadly force in defense of property. Its important to keep in mind that most states consider family pets to be property. You cant legally attack someone who hurt or killed your dog.Its not a free pass to use deadly force against an intruder, but the Castle Doctrine may be used as a legal defense if youre sued or arrested for seriously or fatally injuring someone with martial arts.Heres a list of states incorporating Castle Doctrine principles.Liability Protection Tips for Martial ArtistsThe best way to avoid liability is to avoid confrontation. If you can safely walk away, then do it.When a physical altercation is unavoidable, try to:Give warning that you intend to fight back. The attacker may decide to back off.Make clear you are not the aggressor. You dont have to let the attacker hurt you first, but dont strike unless you are certain of imminent physical danger.Use appropriate force for the circumstances, taking into consideration if the attacker has a weapon, if theyre much smaller than you, significant age differences, and so on.Use only the amount of force necessary to stop the attack. Then stop. You can immobilize the person while waiting for police but must avoid inflicting further injury.Think about how you will react to potential threatsbefore youre forced to use martial arts outside the dojo.Know the laws in your state.Map of State Laws: Self-Defense LegislationEach state has different laws governing self-defense. Click on your state to read the relevant statutes. If youre an experienced martial artist, you must know the law to protect yourself from liability in a physical altercation. Find out now with a FREE case review from an attorney Before we even consider the notion of registering hands, we need to understand what the law considers a weapon. The definition varies significantly across jurisdictions, ranging from specific pieces of hardware to broadly encompassing items. Generally, a weapon is anything designed or intended to inflict harm or cause damage. This can include firearms, knives, bludgeoning instruments, and, in certain circumstances, even seemingly innocuous objects used with malicious intent.Existing laws typically focus on controlling and regulating the possession, sale, and use of *specific* types of weapons, primarily those that can inflict serious or lethal injury. Weapons registration systems, where they exist, are usually tied to firearms. These systems often involve background checks, permits, and mandatory reporting of ownership and transfers.The fundamental challenge when considering hands is that they are not manufactured items. They are inherent to the human body. They are tools we are born with, making them qualitatively different from firearms, knives, or even some types of improvised weapons. The law struggles to categorize something so intimately connected to our physical being in the same way it categorizes external, designed weapons.The Human Body: Limitations of Biological HardwareLets be clear: hands, when used with force and skill, can cause significant harm. A well-placed punch can break bones, inflict internal injuries, and potentially be life-threatening. But the mechanics of using hands as weapons are fundamentally different from the mechanics of a firearm or a bladed weapon.Unlike a gun, your hands have no projectile or blade. Their effectiveness depends entirely on the users physical capabilities: strength, speed, technique, and training. Furthermore, a hands destructive power is variable. A well-trained martial artist can deliver a devastating strike, while someone untrained might be less effective. This variability makes it difficult to create objective, measurable criteria for classifying and regulating hands as weapons.The inherent limitations of hands extend beyond striking power. They are vulnerable to injury themselves. A punch thrown in anger can break bones, or more commonly, result in scrapes and cuts. Weapons like knives or firearms present a much different paradigm of risk. The person using the weapon is much further removed, with a much greater likelihood of causing serious injury or even death to someone else.Practical Realities of Registration: A Complex UndertakingEven setting aside the legal hurdles, the practicalities of registering hands as weapons present a monumental challenge. What would a system for hand registration actually involve?The most obvious hurdle is identification. Would every individual be required to register their hands? Would there be a comprehensive database? The administrative burden alone would be immense. Imagine the logistical requirements of fingerprinting, photographing, and recording medical information for every person in a given jurisdiction.Next, theres the issue of skills assessment and certification. Would individuals have to demonstrate proficiency in self-defense techniques or martial arts to qualify for registration? This raises a host of questions: Which martial arts would be recognized? What level of proficiency would be required? Who would administer the testing? The potential for bias and corruption would be significant.Furthermore, consider the ongoing costs of such a system. There would be the costs of building and maintaining the database, hiring and training staff, and providing the necessary infrastructure. Periodic inspections and renewals would likely be required, adding to the administrative burden and expense.The costs could be astronomical, and the benefits would be, at best, dubious. The complexity and expense, alongside the potential for misuse, create a scenario where the practical implementation of registering hands as weapons is, to put it mildly, improbable.The Purpose: Safeguarding and Self-DefenseThe primary motivation behind exploring the possibility of registering hands as weapons likely stems from a desire for enhanced self-defense. People want to feel empowered to protect themselves and their loved ones. It is a perfectly understandable instinct and one rooted in the fundamental right to self-preservation.The legal justification for using physical force in self-defense varies by jurisdiction, but generally, the force must be reasonable and proportional to the threat faced. Registering hands, in theory, could lead to a clearer legal standing for the user of force. It could provide a basis for arguing that ones hands, having been registered, were being used as a legal weapon.However, such a proposition is loaded with potential problems. Could registration shift the burden of proof in a self-defense case? Might a registered individual be held to a higher standard of accountability if they use their hands in a conflict? Would such a system, in practice, provide more protection or open the door to additional legal complications?The concept also touches on the ever-contentious issue of lethal force. Laws generally allow for the use of deadly force only when faced with an immediate threat of death or grievous bodily harm. Registering hands, even if it were possible, wouldnt necessarily change the legal threshold for justifiable self-defense. It wouldnt give anyone carte blanche to use their hands with impunity.Philosophical and Ethical Considerations: The Bigger PictureBeyond the legal and practical challenges, the idea of registering hands as weapons raises profound philosophical and ethical questions.One concern is the potential for the over-militarization of society. Would the widespread registration of body parts encourage a more aggressive and violent mindset? Could it blur the lines between legitimate self-defense and vigilantism? Theres also the danger of increased tension and fear within a community, where an individual is perceived as a potential, registered weapon.Another crucial consideration is the potential for misuse. What safeguards would be in place to prevent abuse? Could such a system be used to target specific groups or individuals? The history of oppressive regimes demonstrates how easily legal frameworks can be twisted for nefarious purposes. A system like this, if created, could potentially be exploited for discriminatory purposes.The question of bodily autonomy is also key. Are we comfortable with a system that formally classifies part of our very bodies as potential instruments of harm? Does this impact on our perception of our own physical self?Ultimately, any system of this nature would demand constant scrutiny and a deep understanding of the societal consequences.Legal and Practical Obstacles: The Impossible DreamThe legal and practical challenges facing the idea of registering hands as weapons are so formidable as to render the concept virtually impossible.The lack of a clear legal precedent, combined with the inherent nature of hands as biological tools, creates an almost insurmountable legal hurdle. The legal framework, as it exists, isnt designed to categorize and regulate the human body in the same way it regulates manufactured objects.The practical difficulties, as previously discussed, are also immense. The administrative burdens, the costs, the potential for abuse these are all factors that would make any attempt to implement such a system a logistical nightmare. The complexities, the potential for abuse, the cost, the question of enforceability all these factors suggest that this is a concept that is destined to remain, at best, a thought experiment.Alternatives for Self-Protection: Practical Ways to Stay SafeWhile registering your hands as weapons is not a viable option, there are numerous practical and legal steps you can take to enhance your self-defense capabilities.Martial Arts and Self-Defense Training: Enrolling in a reputable martial arts or self-defense course can provide you with valuable skills, including techniques for disarming an attacker, escaping dangerous situations, and defending yourself.Awareness and Situational Assessment: Being aware of your surroundings is the first line of defense. Pay attention to potential threats, trust your instincts, and avoid walking alone in unsafe areas, especially at night.Responsible Use of Legal Defensive Weapons: Depending on your local laws, you might consider carrying legal self-defense tools, such as pepper spray. Always be sure to understand the laws regarding use.Learn Self-Defense Laws: Know the legal parameters of self-defense in your jurisdiction. What constitutes reasonable force? When can you use deadly force? Ignorance of the law is no excuse.These strategies are not only legal and practical but also far more effective than attempting to register your hands as weapons.Conclusion: Finding Empowerment Through Knowledge and ActionThe answer to the question, Can You Get Your Hands Registered As Weapons? is a resounding no. The legal and practical obstacles are insurmountable, and the philosophical implications are far-reaching. While the desire to protect oneself is a fundamental human drive, relying on the formal registration of ones hands is not the appropriate avenue.Instead of exploring improbable scenarios, focus on the actionable steps you can take to increase your safety and security. Knowledge, training, and a proactive approach to self-defense are the most effective ways to empower yourself. Learn about the law, consider practical defensive solutions, and consider training in self-defense. This approach will not only empower you but also help you understand the complex legal issues surrounding self-protection. Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Theres this saying that goes around. Im sure youve heard phrases like:Bruce Lees hands had to be registered as lethal weapons. But is it actually true? In this article, were going to look at the facts surrounding registering your hands and touch on a couple of famous names it has related to over the years.While youre here, want to improve your recovery and performance in martial arts? Check out our brand new MMA supplements that do just that.A boxers hands could be considered lethal weapons in a court of law if used to inflict serious damage to another person. But in general, a boxer doesnt need to register their hands as a lethal weapon because there is no law requiring it.Im sure, like me, youd agree that the hands of a professional boxer are pretty lethal.Registering parts of your body as lethal weapons isnt true its a myth!So where the heck does it come from? Two places:The first one is Joe Louis (Who the hell is Joe Louis?). Joe was a Heavyweight Boxing Champion and was one of the boxers of his time to bring a police officer to the weigh-ins and have his hands registered as deadly weapons before the fight.Joe LouisIt was all a big publicity stunt! And it worked. Were still using this idea today even though its a complete myth.The second place this myth comes from is post-World War II in Japan.Because of the backlash against Japan, where martial arts were practiced, there was a complete ban on martial arts.Not only that but known martial artists were logged in records to keep an eye on them and stop them from practicing.So there isnt any truth to any boxer or martial artist needing to register their hands as lethal weapons. A mix of publicity stunts and hear-say has kept this myth alive.If you have a high level of skill in using your hands to inflict damage, then they could be considered a potentially deadly weapon in a court of law. Any experienced boxer or martial artist could suffer the wrong end of the law if they inflict serious damage.Your hands could be classified as weapons if they are used as it.There have been examples of court cases where a boxer has been convicted of a crime for using their hands as a deadly weapon.In Texas, an experienced mixed martial artist was found guilty of aggravated assault due to their experience with their hands:Thus, when viewed in a light most favorable to the State, we conclude that the State presented substantial evidence of each element of AWDWISI, and that Defendants hands, feet, and teeth were deadly weapons for the purposes of AWDWISI. Furthermore, we are reminded that the jury is the best determinant of whether, under the circumstances, Defendants use of his hands, fists, and teeth were likely to cause death or serious bodily injury.If you happen to be involved in a fight and you have significant boxing or martial arts experience, you could find yourself on the guilty end of a jury.Pick your fights wisely!Boxing gloves are not considered weapons by any law. Boxing gloves help the wearer to protect their hands whilst also making the sport of boxing more visually enjoyable. Its easier to hit your target with a bigger surface area.The bigger your hands are, the easier it is for you to hit your target and let your hands go.As most students, or even fans, of the sport of boxing, will know: boxing gloves main function is to protect the wearers hands.But boxing gloves can be more dangerous to your opponent than being hit with a bare fist.If you hit someone with your bare fists, youre less likely to be able to transfer as much power.Without the protection of the glove, youll be very aware that your hands are much more likely to receive damage themselves. This is likely going to cause you to pull your shots more.Imagine punching a brick wall with your bare fist right now. Then imagine doing the same whilst wearing a boxing glove.Youd probably only want to do the second, right? (Unless you kinda cray-cray)via GIPHYUsing your bare fists as weapons can cause them significant damage. Resulting in soft tissue injury and even broken bones.If you use your fists against a hard object, its going to cause problems (YOURE GOING TO HAVE A BAD TIME!).So a boxing glove will protect your hands pretty nicely. As well as your wrists, too, in some gloves.It will add a new degree of confidence in a strike because there is a clear reduced impact against the bones and muscles in your hand.But for your opponent, boxing gloves could actually be worse for them.When you are wearing boxing gloves and have added protection and confidence with it, youll let your hands go more often.Thats going to mean more heavy strikes to the head for your sparring partner.When the head is struck suddenly with a strong force like a heavy punch, it rattles the brain and can cause it to come into contact with the inner skull.Sometimes if the brain jolts into the inner skull suddenly, it can cause blackouts.Do this enough times and it can result in permanent brain damage. So just try not to take too many big blows to the head, friends!Wearing padding on your hands isnt only for your own or your opponents protection.Having gloves on can actually help you to transfer more power. Deal more damage. And be more successful in your strikes.A great example of this is the sport of MMA. The UFC originally didnt require gloves to be worn and neither did it have weight classes. Crazy!Its only after years of the sport being alive that more protection and rules were introduced. Like weight classes and the MMA protective glove. in the early days, wearing a glove in MMA was a choice among other MMA equipment.And those fighters that chose it, worked out they were far more successful in their fights when wearing gloves.By wearing protection on their hands they were able to open up more freedom in their strikes. They could transfer more force and injure themselves less, making them more likely to come out on top and win.The same is true about regular boxing gloves. The freer you are to throw punches with confidence, the more force you can deliver. And more often.Boxing gloves are designed for protecting the wearers hands and not the opponents.Does it make sense to use boxing gloves as a valid weapon for self-defense?Carrying around a pair of boxing gloves in your bag all day in case a fight breaks out might be a bit impractical.Not only for the extra space in your bag but for the time it takes to get your gloves on.Its unlikely that your attacker will wait 30 seconds for you to lace up your gloves.(WAIT, BRO, LET ME GET MY GLOVES ON!)It isnt practical to use boxing gloves as a self-defense weapon. Theyre for bag/pad work and sparring. But using the skills you learn in a sport like MMA could help be a good tool for self-defense if you need it.There is a rumor that a boxer has to state their expertise three times before they retaliate if engaged in a street fight. But theres no law making it illegal for a boxer to a street fight. Oh ok thanks Mr. professional boxer, I wont continue with this fight. Good day sir!If a boxer or martial artist gets in a fight then they will have certain rights to defend themselves like you or me.BUT should this fight get out of hand and end up in court, then as I wrote earlier they could end up with a lot of trouble.The skill they have with their hands could make them considered as deadly weapons like using any other blunt or sharp object.Its important here for the fighter, whatever unique level of experience they have, to only use their skills to act in self-defense.If youve got the power to break someones jaw and youre actively going after an opponent when they are no longer posing a threat, then you could quite easily end up being charged with aggravated assault.Bruce Lees hands were never registered as lethal weapons because there isnt a legal requirement for it.This myth came from the film Once Upon a Time in Hollywood in which the Bruce Lee character, played by Mike Moh, describes his hands to be registered as lethal weapons.Whilst Bruce was such a knowledgeable martial artist that he even created his own, called Jeet Kune Do, he didnt have to put his fists as weapons on any register.Its a little white lie going around that Bruce Lee himself had his hands registered as lethal weapons.This one is a more recent creation as it comes from the film, Once Upon a Time in Hollywood.In the scene, Bruce Lee (played by Mike Moh) argues with another character, Cliff Booth (played by Brad Pitt):Lee: Youre the one with the big mouth. And I would really enjoy closing it, especially in front of all my friends. But my hands are registered as lethal weapons. That means we get into a fight, I accidentally kill you, I go to jail. Booth: Anybody accidentally kills anybody in a fight, they go to jail. Its called manslaughter.Once Upon a Time in Hollywood (2019)Mike Tysons hands are not registered as lethal weapons because there is not a governing body or law that requires this, even for a professional fighter with knockout power like Mike Tyson.Bing!I know I wouldnt want to feel one of Mikes body hooks or uppercuts. Even inside the ring!Many boxers might talk about the lethality of their hands and their ability, but its all just a big load of ego-boosting and publicity hyping to make the upcoming fight all that much more exciting.Mixed martial artists may have some of the deadliest hands on the planet, but they still do not have to register their hands. Even professional fighters, like those under the UFC promotion, dont have to register their hands, legs, elbows, or any other lethal limb they have.Fighters for the UFC are typically split up into several weight classes to make sure they are fair fights as much as possible.Professional mixed martial artists are some of the most dangerous mofos on the planet as they typically have not just talents with their fists but also with things like leg kicks, takedowns, and submissions.But despite any of these, no, UFC fighters do not have to register their hands anywhere even if they are potentially lethal. They dont have to register any of their body parts.As discussed earlier in this article, having skills with your fighting ability could make you a higher risk in a court of law. So use your skills wisely.So do boxers have to register their hands as lethal weapons? No, they dont!There are many myths about boxers and martial artists.The majority of these are not true. Its nothing except for publicity intended to generate excitement around a boxer or fighter.These are just common misconceptions that turned into myths, often perpetuated by beginner boxers who are a tad too excited!If you have a lot of skill with using your hands in boxing, they could be lethal weapons in court.It turns out that some have been convicted of assault crimes because of their expertise. If youre an experienced fighter, think twice about using your skills in a fight that isnt worth it!Instead of using your fists to risk a day in court, use them to grab fistfuls of our martial arts supplements. Updated 3/20/2023 Using a deadly or dangerous weapon during the commission of a crimesuch as assault or burglaryis often an aggravating circumstance that can increase punishment. You've no doubt heard that objects like guns, knives, and even cars constitute "deadly weapons." But did you know courts sometimes consider the human body a deadly weapon, too?What Is a Deadly Weapon?Certain items like guns, knives, axes, and clubs are deadly weapons in any situation. But even ordinary items that aren't inherently dangerous can be deemed dangerous or deadly when used to injure or threaten someone. Courts have found items like pocket knives, stones, and walking sticks to be deadly weapons when used to attack. Likewise, the human body itself isn't a deadly weapon, but it can be used as one. The determination rests on how it was used and how much harm resulted.Can a Body Part Be a Deadly Weapon?It depends on the state. Certain states specifically exclude the human body from the definition of "deadly weapon." For instance, in California, the body can't be a deadly weapon in the context of assault with a deadly weapon, even though it may inflict deadly force. Rather, deadly weapons are objects external to the body. (People v. Aguilar, 16 Cal.4th 1023 (1997).)But courts in several states, like Texas, Ohio, and Kentucky, have determined the human body to be a deadly weapon under certain circumstances. For instance, courts have found the following body parts to be weapons: feet, hands, teeth, mouth, elbows, and knees. Can You Register Your Hands as Deadly Weapons?No. It's a myth that one can register their hands as deadly weaponsa myth perpetuated by Hollywood. There are no states where body parts or hands can be registered as deadly weapons.How a Court Decides If a Body Part Can Be a Deadly WeaponIn deciding if a body part is a deadly or dangerous weapon, courts may consider the following factors:the manner of blows, hits, or kicksthe degree of force usedthe number of times the defendant struck, kicked, or bit the victimthe extent of the victim's injuries, andthe location of injuries on the victim's body.Case-by-Case ConsiderationsIn states where human body parts can be deadly weapons, courts determine whether they actually are on a case-by-case basis. Normally, an assault involving punching wouldn't make the hands deadly weapons. But if the punching was repeated, extremely severe, and caused permanent damage, a court would be more likely to rule otherwise. Courts have also declared hands to be deadly weapons when the attack involved strangling, suffocating, choking, pushing, or dragging.Extent of InjuriesThe more severe the attack and injury, the more likely it is that a court will rule that a hand or foot is a deadly weapon. Courts have found body parts to be deadly weapons when the victim:was rendered unconscious,suffered brain damage, orhad a fractured skull.Courts have also considered the human body a deadly weapon when a kick or blow lifted the victim off the ground or there was enough force to rotate the victim's body 90 degrees.Specialized Training or EquipmentIn some states, such as Texas, a defendant's martial arts training may make the body a deadly weapon. But in many states, like Illinois, the defendant's training and skillno matter how lethaldoesn't transform the body into a deadly weapon.In cases where defendants have kicked victims, courts have often inquired into the type of shoes worn, considering their size, shape, weight, construction, and materials. In states like Arkansas, where a foot or ordinary shoe cannot ordinarily be a deadly weapon, some kinds of shoes (like steel-toed boots) may qualify. If a victim's kick-induced injuries are severe enough, the court may not require much evidence about the type of footwear.Consult a LawyerIf you've been charged with a crimeinvolving a deadly weapon or notconsult an experienced criminal defense attorney. A lawyer can advise you on the laws in your state, guide you through the criminal justice process, and defend and protect your rights. So weve all heard rumors around the topic of whether professional fighters have to register as deadly weapons. Whether you heard it from some guy at the bar, or you saw an incident surrounding this topic on the news, we have all wondered it. So today, I am going to present the research Ive found in order to answer the question: Do martial artists have to register themselves as deadly weapons?The short answer is NO; martial artists and professional fighters do not have to register themselves (or any part of their body) as a deadly weapon. However, a trained fighter who is charged with assault can have his hands deemed as deadly weapons by the judge for the purpose of the court hearing ONLY. This means that a skilled fighter charged for assault has a chance of getting a misdemeanor raised to a felony because of his or her potential to cause harm.In the rest of this post I will cover where this common myth stems from, as well as the legal ramifications for a fighter who is deemed a deadly weapon in a court of law.Where Did This Myth Start?So yes, the idea that martial artists or professional fighters are requiered to register themselves as a deadly weapon is a complete myth. There is no legal obligation whatsoever on the martial artist to label themselves in any way.In fact, if you plan on training in martial arts, and someone offers to register your hands as deadly weapons, then it is 100%, without a doubt, a complete scam. That person will attempt to charge you a fee for a registration that holds no value, so please be aware. Former Heavyweight Boxing Champion Joe Louis, who famously had his hands registered as deadly weapons before a fight.Now with all this being said, yes, a martial artist or professional fighter can be considered a deadly weapon ONLY by a judge in a court of law. This is not a choice made by the martial artist, but rather a decision of the judge on whether or not the martial artist is able to cause considerable harm with their bare hands. This is also not a good thing for the defendant (the martial artist), because it would raise a charge to assault with a deadly weapon, which is a felony.It is unclear where exactly this myth was started and why, however, some sources state that it started with a professional heavyweight boxer named Joe Louis. Apparently, Joe Louis hired people to appear at his weigh-ins dressed as policemen, during which the police would register his hands as deadly weapons in preparation for the fight.However, this was only done as a publicity stunt, and the registration held no value, especially considering the policemen present werent actually real police officers. After Joe Louis started doing it as a stunt, the myth was likely perpetuated by trainers offering this registration as a service.Are Martial Artists Allowed To Defend Themselves In the Streets?This is usually the follow-up question after people are assured that there is no need to register as a deadly weapon if you are a martial artist. The simple answer is yes, martial artists and professional fighters alike can defend themselves in a confrontation in the real world. However, it is riskier when compared to defending yourself as an average citizen. Heres why:You could potentially find yourself in legal trouble if you are a martial artist and severely injure or kill someone. As mentioned before, your hands could possibly be considered deadly weapons on a court of law, which could present an issue even if you were only defending yourself. UFC fighter Polyana Viana (left) defended herself from a mugger (sitting right) in Brazil with no issue. After hitting him a few times, she waited (red shirt) for police to arrive.Now, this information should not deter you from using your skills to defend yourself. If you are attacked, then by all means, you have a right to defend yourself using your martial art skills. However, you should understand the extent of your ability and know when to stop, and when to avoid confrontation.An example of this could be when you successfully deter an assailant by breaking one of their limbs. At this point, they are unable to fight, and you should call the police. Your actions in this scenario were warranted, justified, and defensible for the circumstances.Now lets take the same scenario. Lets say that when the assailant attacked you, you continued to fight them until they died. This may seem obvious to some of you, but this could be considered manslaughter in some states, such as California.However, in a state such as Michigan, your charge of manslaughter would be mitigated, as you were acting in self-defense. My point throughout all this is, know your limits. Avoid a confrontation if you can, and if you cant, then use only as much force as necessary. MMA Fighter Joe Torrez made headlines when he defended himself during a four man home invasion, killing one invader and injuring another. He received no charges.As Ive mentioned earlier in this post, yes, fighters can be considered deadly weapons during a court case. However, this is almost always due to the fact that the martial artist/pro fighter was the aggressor in the situation. The cases in which this happens are usually very similar to each other, so Ill summarise this type of case. Featherweight MMA Fighter Jamual Edward Parks was sentenced to 6 years in prison for assault, after his hands were deemed deadly weapons.What usually happens is that the professional fighter or martial artist assaults someone for whatever reason, and is then charged with assault, and rightfully so.When the case is taken to court, the judge finds out that the defendant is a trained martial artist, which plays a big factor in the case for two reasons: 1) The defendant has a greater potential to cause harm than the average person and 2) The defendant can be charged more harshly because of their combat skills.The defendants hands can then be deemed deadly weapons by the judge, which will raise the defendants charge of a misdemeanor for assault, to one of a felony for assault with a deadly weapon.However, this will likely not apply to anyone reading, as I know you guys would only use your combat skills righteously, and never to assault somebody. At What Point Are Someones Hands Considered Deadly By The Court?So this is a tricky question. As mentioned earlier, when the hands are deemed deadly by the judge, it is usually directed at the defendant in the situation, a.k.a. the person who committed the crime. So in short, to even have a chance at being considered a deadly weapon the fighter or martial artist would have to be accused of assault in a court of law.But how much fighting experience is needed for the judge to deem a martial artist a deadly weapon? Well, to find the logic behind the judges decision, we can look at the case of MMA fighter Jamual Edward Parks.Jamual Parks assaulted his friend, named Juan Angel, after the two got into an argument. When Angel escaped Parks apartment, he called the police. When police arrived, Parks assaulted the female officer who responded to the call. The official Indictment for the case of Featherweight MMA Fighter Jamual Edward Parks. This is an interesting case to look at because an image of the official indictment can be found online (seen above). In the indictment, we can see the reasoning behind labeling the fighters hands as deadly weapons. In reference to Parks hands, it clearly states, in the manner of their use were capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.So basically, the assault would have to be committed in part with the hands (punches) and the defendant would have to show above-average ability for the judge to consider their hands deadly weapons. Jamual Parks was 6-1, with 2 wins by knockout.So in conclusion, there is no reason you should want your hands deemed as deadly weapons. A registration might be cool to show off in theory, but it has no real value or proof of your ability, and even less usefulness.Even a ranking such as a black belt can be inaccurate when determining the skills of a martial artist. The only people who have had their hands legally deemed deadly weapons are criminals, and it likely isnt something they will be able to show off.Remember that any label put on you as a martial artist comes second only to your actual ability as a martial artist. Belts and registrations hold no significance in a confrontation. Keep training hard and thanks for reading.

Do you register your hands as lethal weapons. Can you really register your hands as lethal weapons. Do you have to get your hands registered as lethal weapons. Can you actually register your hands as lethal weapons. Lethal hands registry.