

The Bill of Rights

The First 10 Amendments to the Constitution



1st Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

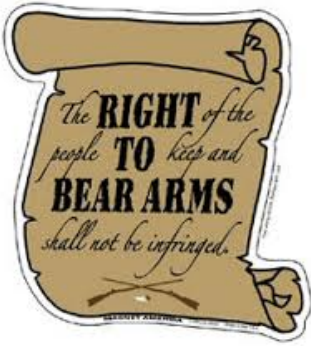


guarantees the freedoms of:

religion
speech
the press
assembly
petition

this means that we all have the right to:

practice any religion we want to
to speak freely
to publish newspapers, TV, radio, Internet (press)
to assemble (meet)
to address the government (petition)



2nd Amendment

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.



The 2nd Amendment protects the right to bear arms, which means the right to own a gun.

3rd Amendment

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.



The 3rd Amendment says that we cannot be forced to house or quarter soldiers.



4th Amendment

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

The 4th Amendment says that the police must have a warrant to enter our homes.

It also means the government cannot take our property, papers, or us, without a valid warrant based on probable cause (good reason).



5th Amendment



No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

The 5th Amendment protects people from:

- being held for committing a crime unless they are properly indicted
- being tried twice for the same crime (double jeopardy)
- testifying against yourself in court (self-incrimination)

6th Amendment



In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

The 6th Amendment guarantees:
a speedy trial (you can't be kept in jail for over a year without a trial)
an impartial jury (doesn't already think you are guilty)
that the accused can confront witnesses against them
that the accused must be allowed to have a lawyer

7th Amendment

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

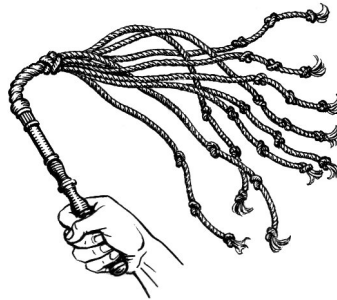


The 7th Amendment

The 7th Amendment guarantees the right to a speedy trial

8th Amendment

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.



The 8th Amendment guarantees that punishments will be fair and not cruel, and that extraordinarily large fines will not be set.

9th Amendment

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.



The 9th Amendment says that all rights not stated in the Constitution and not forbidden by the Constitution belong to the people.

This means that the states can do what they want if the Constitution does not forbid it.

10th Amendment

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.



**States'
Rights**

The 10th Amendment states that any power not granted to the federal government belongs to the states or to the people.

Directions: Read and annotate the Bill of Rights packet. Then write the correct Amendment number in the blank of the statement that describes it.

The _____ Amendment guarantees a jury trial in federal civil court cases. This type of case is normally no longer heard in federal court.

The _____ Amendment guarantees a speedy trial, an impartial jury, that the accused can confront witnesses against them, and that the accused must be allowed to have a lawyer.

The _____ Amendment guarantees that punishments will be fair and not cruel and that extraordinarily large fines will not be set.

The _____ Amendment guarantees that the army cannot force homeowners to give them room and board.

The _____ Amendment is simply a statement that other rights aside from those listed may exist, and just because they are not listed doesn't mean they can be violated.

The _____ Amendment is the subject of some debate, but essentially it states that any power not granted to the federal government belongs to the states or to the people.

The _____ Amendment protects people from being held for committing a crime unless they are properly indicted, that they may not be tried twice for the same crime, that you need not be forced to testify against yourself, and from property being taken without just compensation. It also contains due process guarantees.

The _____ Amendment protects the people from the government improperly taking property, papers, or people, without a valid warrant based on probable cause (good reason).

The _____ Amendment protects the people's freedom of religion, speech, to assemble, to address the government, and of the press to publish.

The _____ Amendment protects the right to own guns. There is debate whether this is a right that protects the state, or a right that protects individuals.