

# The Bill of Rights

The first 10 amendments of the Constitution of the United States make up the Bill of Rights. These amendments outline the basic freedoms of the citizens of the United States.

## First Amendment

The First Amendment guarantees Americans several basic freedoms. These include:

- The freedom of speech
- The freedom of the press to publish information and opinions
- The freedom to choose and practice your religion
- The right to assemble peacefully
- The right to petition the government in order to fix problems

## Second Amendment

The Second Amendment gives citizens the right to own guns.

## Third Amendment

The Third Amendment states that during times of war and peace, soldiers cannot take up residence in someone else's house without that owner's permission.

## Fourth Amendment

The Fourth Amendment states that a person, his house, and his belongings cannot be searched or taken, and he cannot be given a warrant, without proper cause.

## Fifth Amendment

The Fifth Amendment provides protections that relate to criminal law. These include:

- You cannot be tried for a serious crime without a Grand Jury deciding there is enough evidence for a trial. This is called Due Process.
- You cannot be tried for the same crime twice. This is called Double Jeopardy.

- You do not have to provide information that could cause you to incriminate yourself. This is the Miranda Warning that police recite when someone is arrested.
- You do not have to testify against yourself in a court of law. When people say they are "pleading the fifth" during a trial, they are referring to this part of the Fifth Amendment.
- The government cannot take your property for public use without proper compensation. This is called Eminent Domain.

## **Sixth Amendment**

The Sixth Amendment gives a person the right to a speedy and public trial by a jury of his peers in the state and district where he committed the crime.

## **Seventh Amendment**

The Seventh Amendment ensures that a person has the right to a jury in a civil case where more than \$20 is being disputed.

## **Eighth Amendment**

The Eighth Amendment guarantees that excessive bail and/or fines shall not be ordered, and cruel and unusual punishments can't be imposed.

## **Ninth Amendment**

The Ninth Amendment states that people have rights beyond those listed in the Constitution.

## **Tenth Amendment**

The Tenth Amendment states that the Constitution gives certain powers to the Federal Government. However, if this document does not specifically note that this government body holds these rights, then these liberties fall to the individual states and the people, respectively.