



Rights of Citizens: The Bill of Rights

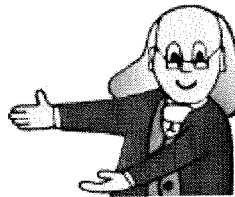
When the Constitution was ratified in 1789, many people were concerned that it did not protect certain freedoms. They thought that the Constitution should be changed or amended to protect these freedoms. On December 15, 1791, ten amendments were added to the Constitution. These amendments guarantee certain freedoms and rights, so they are known as the Bill of Rights.

Some of the freedoms and rights protected in the Bill of Rights include:

- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom of Assembly
- To Keep and Bear Arms
- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of the Press
- Protection for those Accused of Crimes

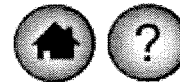
To learn more, choose from the following:

- [Citizenship](#)
- [Becoming a U.S. Citizen](#)
- [Rights of Citizens: The Bill of Rights](#)
- [Responsibilities of Citizens](#)

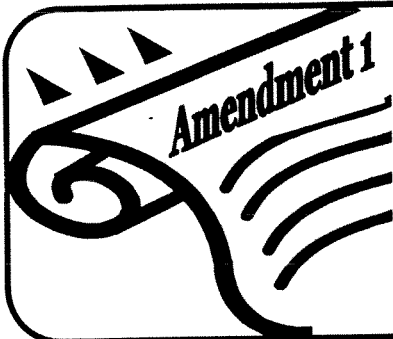


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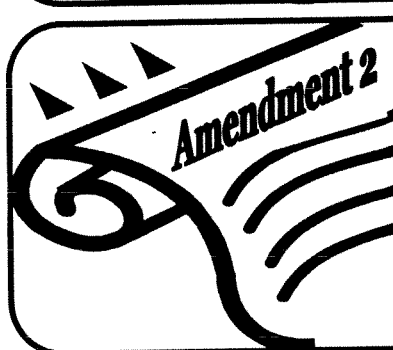
Last updated: July 8, 2002
Page Name: <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/citizenship/rights.html>



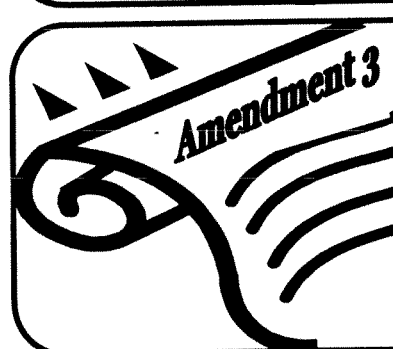
BILL OF RIGHTS CHART
AMENDMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION
ELEMENTARY VERSION



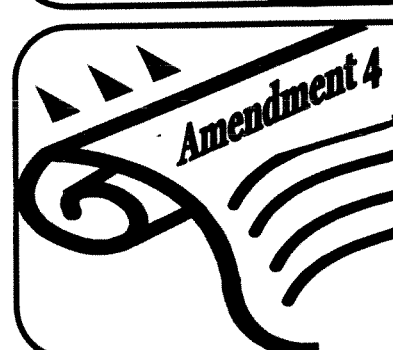
Congress cannot make a law that limits freedom of religion, free speech, free press, or the right of people to get together in groups, or the right of people to ask the government to correct things they don't like.



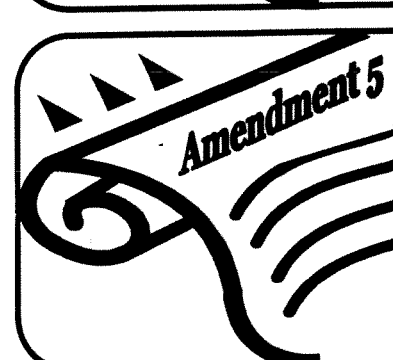
The government cannot stop citizens from keeping guns because the military is necessary to keep peace.



No soldiers can be kept in people's homes in time of peace, without the permission of the owner; if in time of war, certain laws have to be followed.

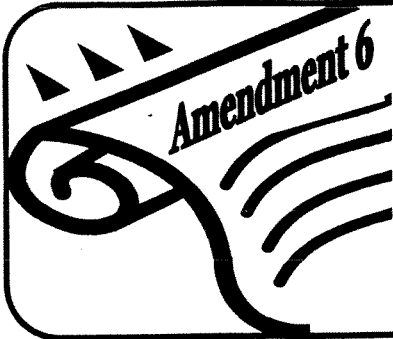


Citizens have the right to be safe in their houses, their belongings, and their persons against unreasonable searches and seizures. If the government wants to search anything, they must have a search warrant which tells what they are looking for and where they can search.

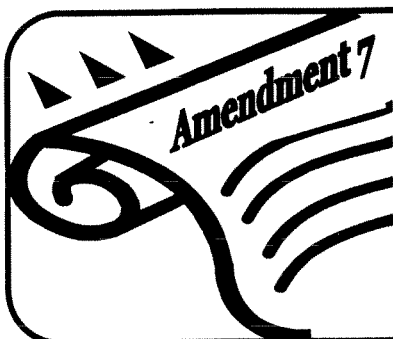


No person can be charged with a crime unless the charges have been brought by a grand jury. A person cannot be charged with the same crime twice. A person does not have to testify against himself/herself. A person can't have his or her life, his or her property, or his or her freedoms taken from him or her without being treated fairly by the law. A person's property can't be taken from him or her without receiving money for the property.

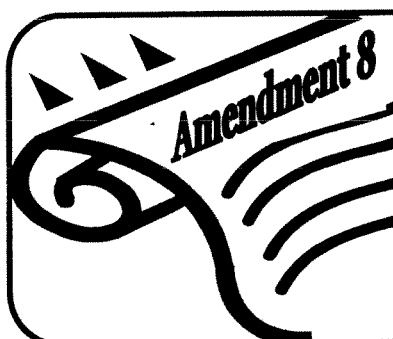
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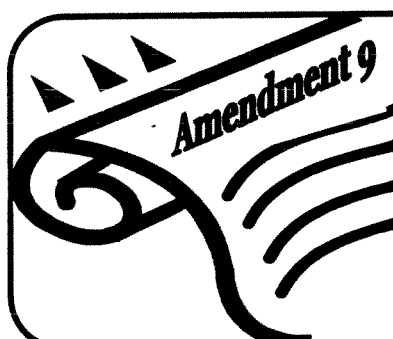
When a person is accused of a crime, he or she will have a quick and public trial. The jury will be fair. The accused will be told what the charge is and can face the people who say he or she broke the law. The accused can have a lawyer to help him or her with the case.



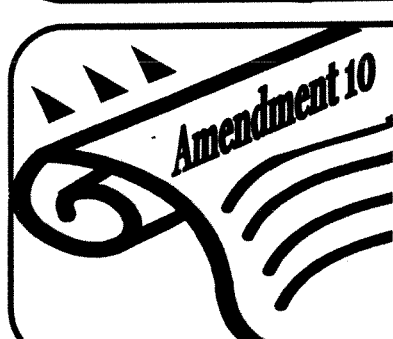
When a person sues another person and the amount of money is over \$20.00, the case may be decided by a jury, and the decision will be final.



Excessive bail or fines cannot be required. No cruel or unusual punishment is allowed.



People have other rights that are not listed here.



The powers not given to the national government are given to individual states.

The Bill of Rights



The Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution, was created on September 25, 1789, and ratified on December 15, 1791.

TENTH 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.

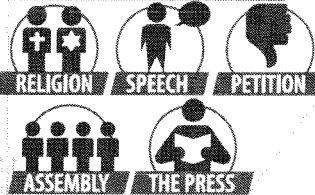
GUARANTEES:



FIRST 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 FREEDOM OF:



SECOND 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.

GUARANTEES:



NINTH AMENDMENT:

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

GUARANTEES:

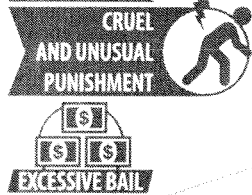
PROTECTION OF RIGHTS NOT SPECIFICALLY LISTED IN THE CONSTITUTION



EIGHTH AMENDMENT:

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

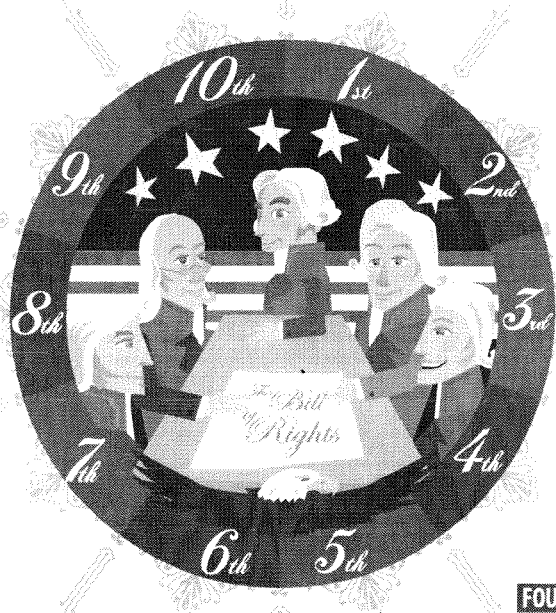
PROHIBITS:



THIRD 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.

PROHIBITS:



SEVENTH 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 re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

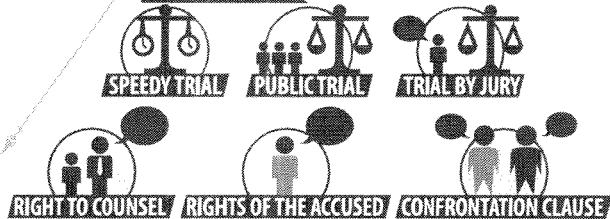
GUARANTEES:



SIXTH 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 defence.

GUARANTEES:



FIFTH 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 offence 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.

GUARANTEES:



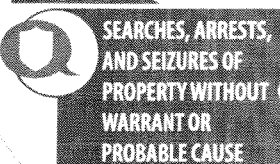
PROHIBITS:



FOURTH 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.

PROHIBITS:



Name: _____

Bill of Rights

- *Format of each response:*

- *The _____ amendment is important. It states _____ . This is important because _____ .*

Your job is to explain why four of the 10 amendments in the Bill of Rights are important. Please use the response format listed above for each of your 4 responses.