

# The Bill of Rights

## **Amendment I**

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.

## **Amendment II**

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.

## **Amendment III**

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.

## **Amendment IV**

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.

## **Amendment V**

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.

## **Amendment VI**

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.

## **Amendment VII**

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.

## **Amendment VIII**

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

## **Amendment IX**

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

## **Amendment X**

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.

# The Bill of Rights - Simplified

## **AMENDMENT 1** (*Freedom of Religion & Expression*)

THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT:

- 1) SET UP A RELIGION.
- 2) TAKE AWAY FREEDOM OF RELIGION.
- 3) TAKE AWAY FREEDOM OF SPEECH.
- 4) TAKE AWAY FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.
- 5) KEEP PEOPLE FROM PEACEFULLY MEETING IN GROUPS (ASSEMBLY).
- 6) KEEP PEOPLE FROM COMPLAINING TO THE GOVERNMENT TO CORRECT UNFAIR ACTIONS (PETITION).

## **AMENDMENT 2** (*Right to Bear Arms*)

THE PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND USE GUNS TO HELP PROTECT THE COUNTRY.

## **AMENDMENT 3** (*Quartering Soldiers*)

THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT MAKE PEOPLE LET SOLDIERS STAY IN THEIR HOMES.

## **AMENDMENT 4** (*Security from Unreasonable Searches & Seizures*)

THE POLICE CANNOT:

- 1) SEARCH A PERSON WITHOUT A GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THE PERSON HAS DONE SOMETHING WRONG.
- 2) SEARCH A PERSON'S HOUSE OR A PERSON'S THINGS WITHOUT A GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THE PERSON HAS DONE SOMETHING WRONG.
- 3) ARREST A PERSON WITHOUT A GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THE PERSON HAS DONE SOMETHING WRONG.
- 4) TAKE A PERSON'S THINGS WITHOUT A GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THE PERSON HAS DONE SOMETHING WRONG.

THE POLICE MUST HAVE A SEARCH WARRANT THAT NAMES:

- 1) THE PLACE TO BE SEARCHED.
- 2) THE PERSON TO BE ARRESTED.
- 3) THE THINGS TO BE TAKEN.

## **AMENDMENT 5** (*Rights to Due Process of Law*)

THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT:

- 1) TRY A PERSON MORE THAN ONCE FOR THE SAME CRIME.
- 2) MAKE A PERSON TESTIFY AGAINST HIMSELF/HERSELF.
- 3) TAKE AWAY A PERSON'S LIFE, LIBERTY, OR PROPERTY WITHOUT GOOD REASONS AND FAIR PROCEDURES.
- 4) TAKE AWAY A PERSON'S PROPERTY UNLESS THE PERSON IS FAIRLY PAID FOR HIS/HER PROPERTY.

## **AMENDMENT 6** (*Right to a Free Trial*)

A PERSON CHARGED WITH A CRIME HAS THE RIGHT TO:

- 1) A SPEEDY AND PUBLIC TRIAL.
- 2) A JURY TRIAL IN A CRIMINAL CASE.
- 3) BE TOLD WHAT HE/SHE IS ACCUSED OF DOING WRONG.
- 4) FACE THE PEOPLE WHO SAY HE/SHE DID SOMETHING WRONG.
- 5) CALL WITNESSES TO SPEAK ON HIS/HER BEHALF.
- 6) HAVE AN ATTORNEY.

## **AMENDMENT 7** (*Trial by Jury*)

PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL IN CIVIL MATTERS. (DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS)

## **AMENDMENT 8** (*Fair Bail & Punishments*)

A PERSON CHARGED WITH A CRIME HAS A RIGHT TO A FAIR FINE.

THERE CANNOT BE ANY CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT.

## **AMENDMENT 9** (*Rights Retained by the People*)

SOME RIGHTS ARE LISTED IN THE CONSTITUTION, BUT UNITED STATES CITIZENS HAVE MORE RIGHTS THAN ARE LISTED HERE.

## **AMENDMENT 10** (*Powers Reserved to States & People*)

THE CONSTITUTION:

- 1) GIVES SOME POWERS TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON D.C.
- 2) SAYS THERE ARE SOME POWERS THE STATE GOVERNMENTS DO NOT HAVE.
- 3) GIVES ALL OTHER POWERS TO THE STATE GOVERNMENTS OR TO THE PEOPLE.