

The Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights were made to protect the citizens of our country and state their rights. They were passed in 1791, after the Constitution. The Bill of Rights is hard to understand—like it is written in code—and it is difficult to understand it.

The first amendment says that you can have any religion, say and report what you want, talk together peacefully, and ask the government for help. This is important for many reasons, such as that citizens can report to the government things that they don't like, and they won't go to jail.

The second amendment says that anyone can own a gun. Some people debate whether this rule applies to all people, and there are some restrictions to the meaning of the amendment. In 1789, when the amendment was made, they used guns a lot more than we do today, and their guns were not as high tech.

The third amendment says that in peacetime, soldiers cannot come and live in your house, unless you say so. This is what the British did in the Revolutionary War. The US government didn't want this to happen.

The fourth amendment says the government cannot just come to your house and search for something *unless* a warrant says they can. The warrant also has to say what they're trying to find. This amendment is important because it states your safety.

The fifth amendment explains that you don't have to testify against yourself, you go to trial before you go to jail, and that if you kill someone, you get a grand jury. This is important because you don't go straight to jail *and* you get to prove yourself.

The sixth amendment says that if you're accused of a crime, you have certain rights. One of them is a jury that hasn't made up their minds yet. Another is that the trial has to be where you did the crime and that anyone can go see it. There are so many trial amendments because King George the III did not hold a lot of fair trials.

The seventh amendment says that if you own someone \$20, they can put you in a jury, not with just one judge. It also says that no law can be examined more than one time. For example, if you were accused of stealing food from someone, and you've already been proven innocent, the government can't just send you to another jury and prove you guilty there.

The eighth amendment says that for any trial, the government has to make fair punishments. For example, the judge can't send you to jail for 20 years if you just stole a loaf of bread. This makes punishments fair.

The ninth amendment says that just because the Constitution explains some rights, doesn't mean that there aren't other rights. We have a lot of rights and the Constitution can't hold all of them.

The tenth amendment says that if something isn't written in the Constitution, then states can still prohibit it. Just like the ninth amendment says, the Constitution can't hold everything, so some obvious laws are kept out.

The Bill of Rights states all the rights you have, what other people can do to you whenever and wherever, what isn't in the Constitution, and what types of trials are allowed. It is important because it protects our rights and keeps us safe.