

The **Bill of Rights** is the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution and lists the basic rights of individuals. The Bill of Rights was written in 1791.

**I. The Five Basic Freedoms**

The First Amendment requires freedom of religion, freedom to assemble, freedom to petition, freedom of the press, freedom of opinion, and freedom of speech.

**II. Right to Bear Arms**

The Second Amendment gives people the right to keep and bear weapons.

**III. Housing Soldiers**

The Third Amendment states that no soldier shall be living in any house without the owner's permission.

**IV. Search and Seizure**

The Fourth Amendment says no one can search through your home and possessions without a search warrant.

**V. Rights of the Accused**

The fifth Amendment gives you the right to remain silent if being accused of a crime. You can "plead the fifth".

**VI. Right to a Fair Trial**

The Sixth Amendment grants individuals the right to a speedy and public trial with a fair jury.

**VII. Jury Trial in Civil Cases**

The Seventh Amendment gives individuals the right to a trial with a fair jury in civil matters of \$20 and over, which was much more money in 1791!

**VIII. Bail and Punishment**

The Eighth Amendment states that bail should not be excessive and there should be no cruel or unusual punishment. In other words, the punishment should fit the crime.

**IX. Power to the People**

The Ninth Amendment states that constitutional rights should not interfere with other rights of the people.

**X. Power to the States**

The Tenth Amendment gives individual states the rights neither listed nor prohibited in the Constitution.

**Keep in Mind:** There are seventeen more amendments to the U.S. Constitution, but only the first ten are known as the **Bill of Rights!**