



## AMENDMENTS

### AMENDMENT 1. RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FREEDOM (1791)

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.

Congress may not set up an official church or pass laws that limit freedom of religion, speech, the press, assembly (public meeting), and petition (asking the government to do certain things).

### AMENDMENT 2. RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS (1791)

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.

Citizens have the right to keep weapons.

### AMENDMENT 3. QUARTERING OF SOLDIERS (1791)

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.

Military troops may not take over private houses in peace time.

### AMENDMENT 4. SEARCH AND SEIZURE (1791)

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.

The government is limited in its right to search or take persons and property.

### AMENDMENT 5. CRIMINAL PROCESS; DUE PROCESS (1791)

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 offense 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.

A person cannot be put on trial for a serious crime unless he or she is accused by a grand jury. He or she cannot be tried for the same crime twice. He or she cannot be forced to give evidence against himself. No person's right to life, liberty, or property can be taken away except by lawful means.



### AMENDMENT 6. RIGHT TO JURY TRIAL (1791)

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 defense.

A person accused of a crime has the right to a fair, public trial by a jury in the state where the crime took place. He or she must be told the charges against him or her. He or she has the right to have a lawyer defend him or her, to question people who speak against him or her, and to call people to speak in his or her favor.

from We the People; Holt, Rinehart, and Winston (textbook used in previous years)

#### **AMENDMENT 7. CIVIL TRIALS (1791)**

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 reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

A person has a right to a jury trial in most cases that concern him or her.

#### **AMENDMENT 8. PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMES (1791)**

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

Prison bails, fines, and punishments must be fair.



#### **AMENDMENT 9. OTHER RIGHTS (1791)**

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

The promise of certain rights in the Constitution does not mean that these rights are the only rights the people have. The people have other rights that may not be taken away or limited by the government.

#### **AMENDMENT 10. POWERS RESERVED TO THE STATES (1791)**

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.

All powers not given to the federal government are left to the states and to the people.