

THE BILL OF RIGHTS

When all the states were talking about whether or not to ratify the U.S. Constitution, a lot of people were upset that it didn't include a list of rights. The framers promised to fix that problem after the Constitution was adopted — and they did! The first 10 amendments to the Constitution were passed in 1791. They're called the Bill of Rights, and they describe the most basic rights guaranteed to all people in America.

Amendments 1 to 4 protect people's individual liberties. These are things that every person has a right to do and that the government can't control. The only limit on these rights is that they can't be used to take away anyone else's rights.

Amendments 5 to 8 protect the rights of people who are accused of crimes and people who are convicted of crimes. These rights help to make sure that everyone is treated fairly by the government and that they have a chance to defend themselves.

Amendments 9 and 10 protect people from what can happen if the government gets too powerful.

1st

The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom to assemble, and freedom to protest.

2nd

The Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep a militia and the right to bear arms.

3rd

The Third Amendment makes it illegal to force people to let soldiers live in their homes without their permission.

4th

The Fourth Amendment protects people from the government unreasonably searching them, or unreasonably searching or taking their property.

5th

The Fifth Amendment says people have a right to due process, can only be put on trial once for a crime, and don't have to speak against themselves.

6th

The Sixth Amendment gives people the right to a speedy and public trial with a fair jury, to their own lawyer, and to know who is accusing them of what.

7th

The Seventh Amendment allows people to have a trial by jury in cases where nobody committed a crime but people have a disagreement.

8th

The Eighth Amendment forbids cruel and unusual punishment, and says that people can't be given excessive bail or fines.

9th

The Ninth Amendment says that the rights of people aren't limited to just the ones listed specifically in the Constitution.

10th

The Tenth Amendment gives states the power to make decisions about everything except what the Constitution gives to the federal government.

