

KNOW YOUR

RIGHTS

The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, protects the rights of American citizens.

1ST FREEDOM TO FREELY PRACTICE RELIGION
FREEDOM OF SPEECH
FREEDOM OF THE PRESS
RIGHT TO PEACEFULLY ASSEMBLE
RIGHT TO PETITION

2ND RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

3RD NO SOLDIER SHALL BE QUARTERED IN ANY HOUSE, WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE OWNER

4TH FORBIDS UNREASONABLE SEARCH AND SEIZURE

5TH RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS AND PROTECTION AGAINST DOUBLE JEOPARDY AND SELF-INCRIMINATION

6TH RIGHT TO A SPEEDY TRIAL, IMPARTIAL JURY AND REPRESENTATION BY AN ATTORNEY

7TH RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY IN CIVIL CASES

8TH NO EXCESSIVE FINES OR CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT

9TH PROTECTION OF RIGHTS NOT LISTED

10TH POWERS NOT GRANTED TO THE GOVERNMENT RETAINED BY THE STATES AND THE PEOPLE

14TH AMENDMENT

Although it is not part of the Bill of Rights, this amendment is vitally important because it allowed the Supreme Court to apply the rights in the first ten amendments to the states. Originally, the Bill of Rights applied only to the Federal government.

“WE MIGHT AS WELL REQUIRE A MAN TO WEAR STILL THE COAT WHICH FITTED HIM WHEN A BOY, AS CIVILIZED SOCIETY TO REMAIN EVER UNDER THE REGIMEN OF THEIR BARBAROUS ANCESTORS.”

— THOMAS JEFFERSON, 1816

WHAT IS INCORPORATION?

Throughout the 20th century, the Supreme Court used the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment to apply most of the Bill of Rights to the states thereby expanding the protections under the Bill of Rights—a process known as incorporation.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND YOU



NATIONAL ARCHIVES FOUNDATION