

# **The Bill of Rights (Plain Text Version)**

**Ratified December 15, 1791**

## **Amendment I**

Congress should not say that the nation has only one religion, or tell people they cannot practice a religion of their own choice; it should not tell people what to say or what to write in the press; it should not tell people they can get together to protest peacefully, and to write to the government to complain about a decision that has been made.

## **Amendment II**

The right for the government to organize an army, and for individual citizens to own and use guns, should not be taken away.

## **Amendment III**

No soldier, when there is peace, should live in a house without the owner saying it's okay. If there is a war, then the soldier needs to follow the law about living in other people's houses.

## **Amendment IV**

Search warrants (specific permission) shall be necessary for any search of a person's house or belongings. Officials must present good evidence as to why the warrant should be given.

## **Amendment V**

The rights of a person accused of a crime must include an official statement about the crime, and a person may not be tried twice for the same specific criminal incident. All of the steps of the must be followed in order to punish a person or take away their property.

## **Amendment VI**

A person accused of a crime has the rights to a fair trial by a jury, to question witnesses for or against him or her, and to be provided a lawyer if he or she cannot afford one.

## **Amendment VII**

In civil suits (not criminal) that involve property more than twenty dollars, a jury trial may be requested.

## **Amendment VIII**

Bail should never be set too high, and punishments should never be cruel and unusual.

## **Amendment IX**

Any right not listed in the Bill of Rights is not necessarily denied to the people.

## **Amendment X**

Any power not given to the United States or to the individual states is reserved for the people.