

**The Bill of Rights (1791)**

**Amendment I:** 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.

1<sup>st</sup> AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Amendment II:** 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Amendment III:** 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Amendment IV:** 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.

4<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Amendment V:** 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.

5<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Amendment VI:** 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.

6<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Amendment VII:** 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.

7<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

8<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Amendment IX:** The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

9<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Amendment X:** 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.

10<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Bill of Rights Scenarios

**Directions:** Put your knowledge of the Bill of Rights to the test. Read the following scenarios and determine what, if any, amendments have been violated. Be sure to point out why you think certain amendments apply.

1. You are walking down the street when a police car screeches to a halt in front of you. Two officers jump out and immediately begin to question you. “Who are you? Where are you coming from? What are you doing?” Confused and a bit nervous, you hesitate to answer. They punch you in the stomach, cuff you and throw you in the squad car. Down at the station they accuse you of robbing a bank, mugging a 90 year old lady for her purse (containing \$5 she was going to give to her grandson for his 6<sup>th</sup> birthday) and taking candy from a little baby. They question you for five hours before forcing you to sign a confession.

Amendment #? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?

2. You have been arrested for stealing cars. While at the police station, waiting for your lawyer that never comes, several officers physically rough you up in order to get you to confess. After being found guilty by a jury, based almost entirely on your confession at the police station, the judge sentenced you to life in prison.

Amendment #? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?

3. You have decided to become politically active and have become a crusader for the protection of our nation's most valuable natural resource, the trees. You and your tree hugging friends decide to chain yourselves to the trees in a local park slated to be turned into the newest shopping mall complete with a Chipotle. As you're chanting "Hands off our forest!" and "Don't cut me down!" and "Squirrels save lives!" local police sweep in, break out their bolt cutters to detach you from the trees and promptly arrest you all. You are thrown in jail for your protest.

Amendment #? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?

4. You are sitting at home in your apartment watching a horror movie at high volume. It's a "slasher" movie, so there is lots of screaming along with sounds of chainsaws and guns. Suddenly, in the middle of the most violent scene, your apartment door bursts open and several cops rush in with their guns drawn. They announce that they are there to help whoever it is being hurt. Quickly, and calmly, you explain what is going on and that they must be mistaken. Thankfully your quick thinking puts them at ease. Unfortunately, you didn't think quick enough to hide all the illegal drugs on your coffee table. Before they arrest you, they search the rest of the house and find guns, more drugs and several endangered species of tiger that you were selling over the Internet. All of this will land you in jail for 35 years.

Amendment #? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?

5. During the past year, Massachusetts has struggled with an explosion of gun related crimes. In order to put a stop to this increased gun violence, state officials have made both the sale and possession of a firearm illegal for anyone other than police officers. The federal government has objected to this. Why?

Amendment #? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?

6. You are a judge and you are hearing a case about an employee who was caught stealing twelve dozen Munchkins from the local Dunkin Donuts in her bag as she left work. She has worked there for two years and an investigation revealed that had been smuggling Munchkins and selling them in the parking lot out of the trunk of her vehicle for 10 cents less than the store. In the past, her boss had given her warnings but to no avail. Thus, she was brought to trial. You sentence her to death by starvation.

Amendment #? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?