

# The Bill of Rights

## - The first 10 amendments

# The Bill of Rights

*Ratified December 15, 1791*

## Article I

**C**ongress 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.

## Article 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.

## Article III

**N**o 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.

## Article IV

**T**he 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.

## Article V

**N**o 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 offence 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.

## Article VI

**I**n 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 defence.

## Article VII

**I**n 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.

## Article VIII

**E**xcessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

## Article IX

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

## Article X

**T**he 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.



1) Each citizen has the right to the freedom of religion, speech, and press and is allowed to assemble and petition the government.



2) Everyone has the right to have a gun (for lawful purposes) and the right to form as a militia.

The Second Amendment Protects The Right Of the People to Keep and Bear Arms for:



PERSONAL DEFENSE



PROPERTY DEFENSE



HOMELAND DEFENSE

3) This prohibits the government from forcing citizens to quarter soldiers in their home during peacetime.





4) Citizens are protected from unwarranted search and seizure, and warrants must be specific and issued upon probable cause.



5) Citizens are protected from “double jeopardy” (being tried twice for the same crime), cannot be forced to incriminate themselves, and are generally protected from abuse at the hands of the courts.



6) Everyone has the right to a fair and unbiased trial by jury as well as the right to counsel (a lawyer).





7) In civil cases, the right to a trial by jury is still preserved; the case may not be reexamined in another court.





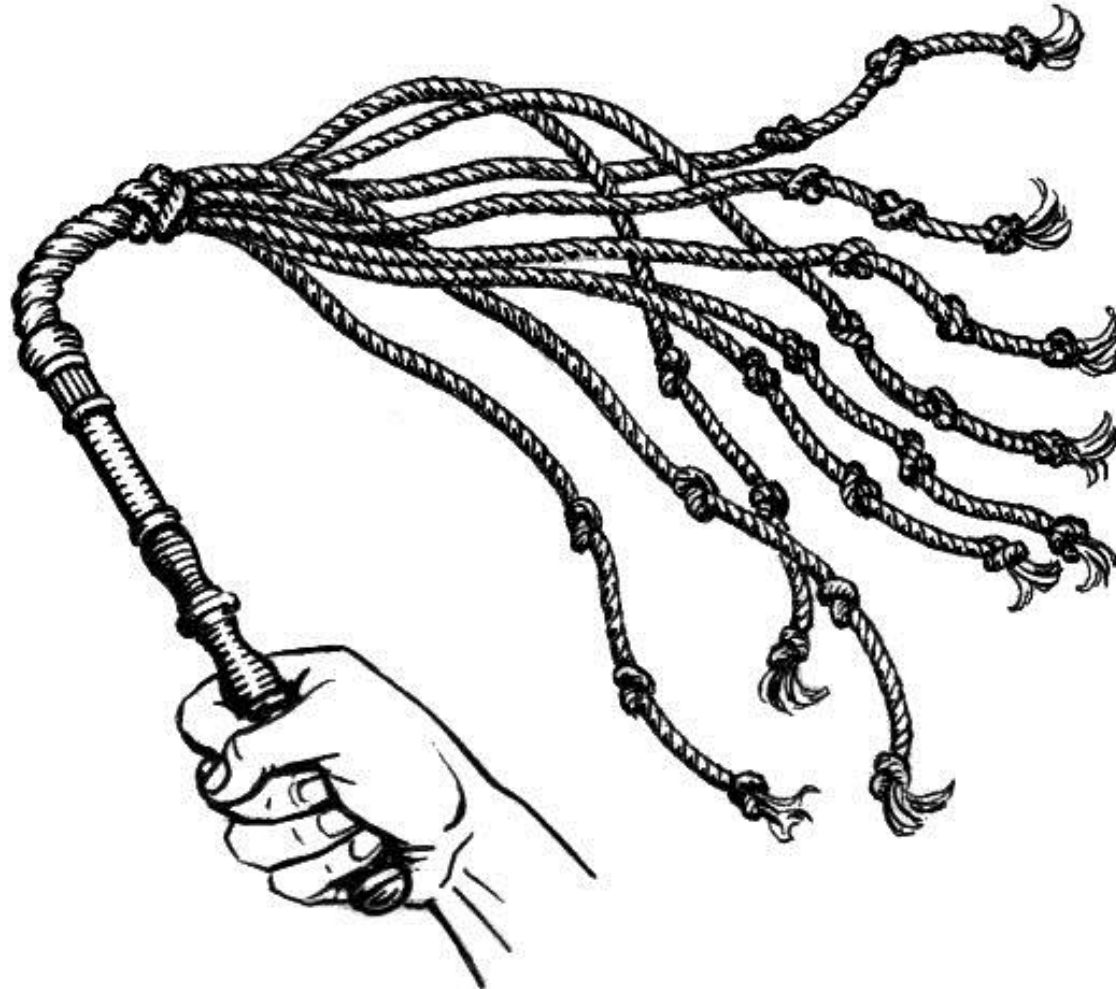
# 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment Examples:

- A drunk driver doing 60mph rear-ends a Ford Escort, killing the driver of the Escort. A jury, handing down a \$27 million verdict for the victim's family, decrees that Ford Motor Co. is 40% responsible for this accident and thus on the hook for the whole award.

A 17-year-old falls asleep at the wheel, crosses into oncoming traffic and crashes his SUV head-on into a Dodge Caravan. The driver of the Caravan is killed when the passenger behind her, not wearing a seat belt, plows into her seat. The jury delivers a \$49 million punitive-damages award against DaimlerChrysler.

In a victory for women, a U.S. district court judge in May 2004 set today as the deadline for Dow Corning to begin processing claims from thousands of women who suffered complications from the silicone breast implants the company manufactured until the early 1990s. The money will come from a \$2.35 billion fund created in one of the largest class-action settlements in U.S. history.

8) Cruel and unusual punishment may not be used upon a citizen, and bails may not be unreasonably high.



9) This amendment states that citizens hold rights that are not enumerated in the Constitution, and that those not enumerated are not necessarily not there.

(Examples: Equal Opportunity Employment, Americans with Disabilities Act, Workman's Compensation, OSHA, Labor Unions, Minimum Wage Standards)





10) If a right wasn't given to the federal government or prohibited to the States in the Constitution, it is held by either the States or the people. (Examples: Driving age, Death Penalty, Gay Marriage)

