

DO YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A CITIZEN?

A **right** is something a person has which people think should not be taken away. It is a rule about what a person is allowed to do or have.

Civil rights are basic rights that all people in the United States have, protected by our Constitution. Civil rights are laws that protect everyone of us, not just some of us. They ensure that each person is protected from discrimination and can enjoy the "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness" that is promised in the Declaration of Independence.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH/COMMUNICATION

All US citizens can voice their opinion and say things freely. This freedom prevents the government from punishing you for saying your opinions. It does not mean that you are not responsible for the things you say or write. You should always try to be respectful in your communications.

Example Speak at a community meeting, take part in local board meetings, Facebook post, letters to the editor.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The right to receive an education is legally guaranteed for all without any discrimination. States have the responsibility to protect, respect, and fulfill the right to learn new things.

Example You have a right to attend high school, tech school, college, online learning, etc, if you choose.



RIGHT TO PRIVACY

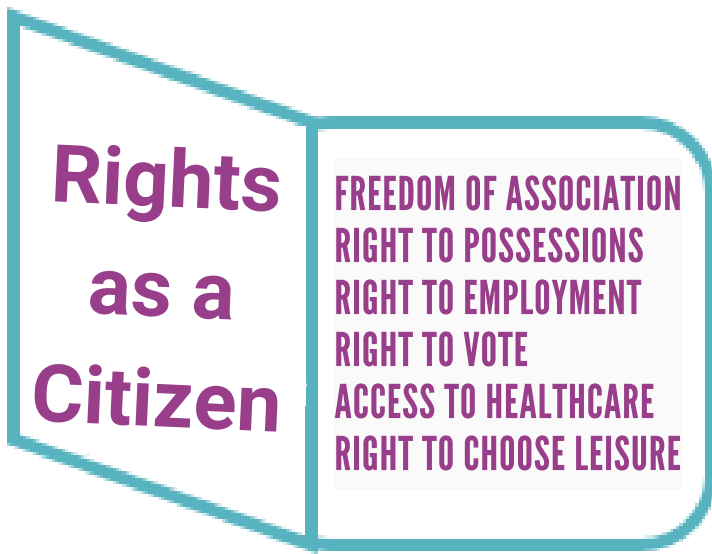
You have the right to not tell personal information. Examples of personal information are bank, health/medical, tax, and government program participation i.e. whether you are receiving government benefits. You have the right to have privacy in your home.

Example You have the right to say who you want to have your personal information. You have the right to say who you want in your home.

FREEDOM TO RELIGION & SPIRITUAL BELIEF

You are able to be involved your own religious/spiritual practices and to follow any religion, or no religion at all.

Example You can attend any religious service you like, pray when you like, state your religious beliefs, own, wear and display religious items (Bible, cross, statues, literature, music, etc).



FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

The right to come together with other individuals peacefully as a group to take part in, and/or defend common interests. You can hang out with anyone you want to.

Example Being a member of a community group, work group, being a part of a group supporting a common interest, political beliefs, supporting your favorite sports team, a book club, a church group, if you like.

RIGHT TO EMPLOYMENT

All people have a right to work, volunteer, or take part in productive employment, and may not be prevented from doing so.

Example To work or volunteer in the community if you choose so.

RIGHT TO VOTE

Every US citizen aged 18 years or above can vote.

Example Vote in your community- for a school board member, for our president, etc.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Everyone should have access to the health services they need and when they need them.

Example Seeing your doctor as needed, choosing your provider.

RIGHT TO POSSESSIONS

The right to own property or 'things' and have access to them, unless unsafe.

Example Anything you pay for, or is given to you, is your personal property.

RIGHT TO CHOOSE LEISURE & REST

You may choose what you do during your time away from work and other responsibilities. You may participate in activities that interest you.

Example You can spend your leisure time riding a bike, going to a group meeting, watching TV, or doing any other activity that interests you.

WE ALL HAVE RIGHTS AS CITIZENS.