



HOME OF *American Rights*

Virginia Declaration of Rights Glossary

The definitions in this document are derived from works in the Oxford English Dictionary online.

Article 1

Inherent: Existing in something as a permanent quality; an essential element of something; built-in, natural.

Compact: A contract made between two or more groups; a mutual agreement or understanding.

Divest: To strip a person or thing of possessions, rights, or attributes; to deprive.

Article 2

Vested: In full or legal possession of something.

Derive: To draw, get, gain, or obtain something.

Magistrate: Someone who works for the government and is responsible for enforcing the law.

Trustee: A person who is trusted, or is responsible for a particular role or task.

Amenable: Responsible

Article 3

Effectually: Thoroughly

Maladministration: Improper management of issues, especially public issues.

Indubitable: Cannot be doubted; very certain.

Unalienable: Cannot be removed from its current owner.

Indefeasible: Cannot be done away with or given up.

Conducive: Making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible.

Weal: Well-being; happiness; prosperity.

Article 4

Emolument: Profit or rewards.

Descendible: Able to be passed down to a family member.

Article 5

Burthen: Duty, responsibility, or blame.

Station: The place or position occupied by a person or thing.

Article 6

Sufficient: Enough; acceptable for a certain purpose.

Suffrage: The right to vote or express an opinion.

Assent: Agreement

Article 7

Execution: The action of completing a plan or an instruction.

Injurious: Wrongful; hurtful; damaging.

Article 8

Capital: A crime for which the punishment is death.

Nature: The basic features of something.

Vicinage: Neighborhood

Unanimous: Completely in agreement.

Article 9

Excessive: Going past what is right or fair.

Bail: An amount of money required in order to temporarily free a person who is waiting for a trial.

Unusual: Unacceptable

Article 10

Warrant: A document written by a government official authorizing the police or some other group to make an arrest or search a place for the purpose of upholding the law.

Particular: In a way that is exact and clear.

Grievous: Very severe or serious.

Oppressive: Harsh; unfair.

Article 11

Controversy: An argument.

Suit: A legal disagreement between people that is settled in a court.

Ought: Should

Article 12

Bulwark: A strong support or protection against something.

Despotic: Unfair and unjust, like a dictator or a tyrant;.

Article 13

Arms: Weapons

Subordinate: Under the control of someone or something else.

Civil: Relating to ordinary citizens and their concerns, separate from military or religious matters.

Article 14

Uniform: Remaining the same at all times.

Thereof: Related to the thing just mentioned.

Article 15

Adherence: Commitment to a person or a belief.

Temperance: Balance in your actions; avoiding doing anything extreme.

Frugality: Not spending too much money.

Recurrence: Returning to something.

Virtue: The quality of moral health and economic independence that kept a citizen balanced and made the person a good citizen

Article 16

Discharge: To clear or remove a requirement or responsibility by completing it; to pay a debt, perform a duty, or carry out a promise.

Conviction: The state of being convinced; strong belief based on good reasons or evidence.

Dictate: A guide to action, coming from one's conscience, instincts, or experience; a powerful guiding idea.

Forbearance: Gentleness, kindness, or leniency.