

The 14th Amendment

The 14th Amendment gives citizenship to everyone born in the United States, and guarantees them equal protection under the law.



Amendment 14

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside.

No state shall ... deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person ... the equal protection of the laws.

- from the 14th Amendment, ratified as part of the U.S. Constitution in 1868

This Amendment was passed to make it clear after the Civil War ended that African Americans were citizens of the U.S., and had a right to fair treatment.

Any person born in the U.S. is a citizen of the U.S.

States must treat everyone equally under the law.

Did you know?

"Naturalization" is the process by which a non-citizen becomes a citizen. The process involves a waiting period, a test, and an oath of citizenship.