

Summary of the South African Bill of Rights

- **Equality:** You cannot be discriminated against. But affirmative action and fair discrimination are allowed.
- **Human Dignity:** Your dignity must be respected and protected.
- **Life:** You have the right to life.
- **Freedom and security of the person:** You cannot be detained without trial, tortured or punished cruelly. Domestic violence is not allowed.
- **Slavery, servitude and forced labour:** Slavery and forced labour are not allowed.
- **Privacy:** You cannot be searched or have your home or possessions searched.
- **Freedom of religion, belief and opinion:** You can believe and think whatever you want and can follow the religion of your choice.
- **Freedom of expression:** All people (including the press) can say whatever they want.
- **Assembly, demonstration, picket and petition:** You can hold a demonstration, picket and present a petition. But you must do this peacefully.
- **Freedom of association:** You can associate with whomever you want to.
- **Political rights:** You can support the political party of your choice. If you are a citizen, and at least 18 years old, you can vote.
- **Citizenship:** Your citizenship cannot be taken away from you.
- **Freedom of movement and residence:** You can go and live anywhere in South Africa.
- **Freedom of trade, occupation and profession:** You can do whatever work you choose.
- **Labour relations:** You may join trade unions and go on strike.
- **Environment:** You have the right to a healthy environment.
- **Property:** Your property can only be taken away from you if the proper rules are followed.
- **Housing:** The government must make sure people get access to proper housing.
- **Health care, food, water and social security:** The government must make sure you have access to food and water; health care and social security.
- **Children:** Children under the age of 18 have special rights, like the right not to be abused.
- **Education:** You have the right to basic education, including adult basic education, in your own language (if this is possible).
- **Language and culture:** You can use the language you want to and follow the culture that you choose.
- **Cultural, religious and linguistic communities:** Communities can enjoy their own culture; practice their own religion; and use their own language.
- **Access to information:** You have the right to any information, which the government has.
- **Just administrative action:** Actions by the government must be fair.
- **Access to courts:** You can have a legal problem decided by a court, or a similar structure.
- **Arrested, detained and accused persons:** This right protects people who have been arrested, imprisoned or accused.
- **NOTE:** All these rights can be limited if it would be fair to do so