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The Fourth Amendment

Revolutionary. Empowering. Protective. These three simple words are everything the original Ten Amendments are. The Bill of Rights outlines the rights retained by the people to define the government's limits clearly. The Bill of Rights became a part of the Constitution on December 15, 1791. James Madison was inspired to write the Bill of Rights by Thomas Jefferson's argument and letters to the Constitution's framers. The Bill of Rights was made because of the Stamp Act, which was passed by the English Parliament in 1765. In 1215, England's King John was under pressure from contumacious barons, giving his stamp of approval to make the Magna Carta. The Magna Carta protects the people from royal abusers. The Americans took inspiration from the Magna Carta and used some of its rights to create the Bill of Rights. The first Ten Amendments were made, which included excessive bail and fines on cruel and unusual punishment, and keeping the people's freedoms and homes safe. The Fourth Amendment is also a crucial part of it.

Initially, the Fourth Amendment protects people against unreasonable searches and seizures. In the Constitution, the Fourth Amendment states, "The 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." In 1789, the Fourth Amendment was introduced and is the foundation of criminal law jurisprudence. Which articulates both the rights of the people and the responsibilities of law enforcement officials. "Now, one of the most essential branches of English liberty is the freedom of one's house. A man's house is his castle; and whilst he is quiet, he is as well guarded as a prince in his castle." (James Otis) This quote states that any citizen may fall into the category of

criminally accused and need to be provided protection accordingly. The Fourth Amendment was created as a response to the contravention of privacy in both the colonies and in England.

Today the Fourth Amendment is known for placing restraints on the government any time it detains or searches a person or property. The Fourth Amendment provides us with, “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.” The idea is to avoid warrants that abuse their power, so with each search and seizure, it should be cleared in advance to the judge. The warrant must show a certain level of suspicion of criminal activity, also known as “probable cause” to justify the search or seizure. Most warrants aren't needed when a police searches a vehicle. Police don't need approval from a judge to detain people on the streets or search or seize people in an emergency.

To summarize, The Fourth Amendment is used to protect people from unnecessary searches or seizures and warrants that abuse their power. Just like the other nine amendments, the Fourth Amendment is just as important because it helps people be safe around government officials, without thinking about being searched for no reason. The Fourth Amendment has taken quite some time to be made. Thankfully, it did because there would be a lot of unnecessary searches, there still are but not as much because the other amendments do support the Fourth Amendment in some way.

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