

“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 make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

The Fourteenth Amendment
United States Constitution
July 9, 1868

The Fourteenth Amendment uses the same exact words - the due process clause - as found in the Fifth Amendment, to describe a legal obligation of all states. This was done to ensure that all levels of American government operate under the same rule-of-law and provide fair procedures.

Due process refers to legal procedures that require the government to treat people fairly, including providing notice and an opportunity to be heard. Read recent news reports, in-print or online, for reports involving local legal proceedings - living examples of rights under the 14th Amendment.

Next installment: Supreme Court Case: In re Gault (1967)



This is one of eight Newspaper In Education features created to educate and celebrate Law Day, May 1, 2015. Sponsored by the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the NYS Bar Association and produced by the NYNPA NIE Program.