

I am a FREE AMERICAN... Right?

A Guide to Some of America's Silliest
(and Probably Unconstitutional) Laws

Volume One



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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Phoenix, Arizona

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Finding the Humor in the Fallibility of Government

Illustrated Guide to Some of America's Silliest Laws Available on July Fourth

As Americans, we take great pride in our liberty, believing that we are as free as we can be. But what if that wasn't quite true? What if there were restrictions on some of the most innocent kinds of behavior? What if you couldn't wear cowboy boots unless you actually owned a couple of cows? What if a particular hairstyle kept you from getting a raise? What if singing off-key was prohibited? What kind of dystopian nightmare is this?

From the author of *I Know My Rights: A Children's Guide to the Bill of Rights and Individual Liberty* comes the first volume of *I am a Free American... Right? A Guide to Some of America's Silliest (and Probably Unconstitutional) Laws*.

"Americans love to flaunt their freedom, especially around the Fourth of July, when we go a little overboard with the red, white, and blue, myself included. But, for all the celebrating and international bragging on social media, we seem to have become a little numb to what's actually going on around us; it's as if we're wearing blinders.

"Taking a moment to learn about our laws and laugh at the absurdity of so many of them can help bring about the necessary mentality to tackle laws that are as harmful as they are silly." – Rory Margraf, Author of *I am a Free American... Right? A Guide to Some of America's Silliest (and Probably Unconstitutional) Laws*.

Rory Margraf is a writer from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Birthplace of Liberty. His work has been featured with the Freedom Today Network, Speak Freely, Being Libertarian, Think Liberty, and the Foundation for Economic Education. In May of 2019, he joined Porter Medium as an opinion writer, contributing a Libertarian perspective on current events and national issues. His writing advocates individual rights and peaceful dissidence, with a focus on American and Irish politics. He currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

I am a Free American... Right? A Guide to Some of America's Silliest (and Probably Unconstitutional) Laws, Volume One is the first in a hilarious new series, presenting some of our country's most absurd legislation. Some laws are over a century old, some have been around for decades, and some are quite new. Just a few have been recently changed or repealed; proof that reform is possible. With every state and Washington DC being represented, everyone has the chance to discover how free they truly are.

I am a Free American... Right? A Guide to Some of America's Silliest (and Probably Unconstitutional) Laws, Volume One is available now for review; contact Rory Margraf to receive a press copy.

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ABOUT



RORY MARGRAF

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

In 2019, he joined Porter Medium, providing a Libertarian perspective on current events and national issues. His writing focuses on individual rights, constitutional law, peaceful dissidence, and American and Irish politics. He currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

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SALES INFO

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SYNOPSIS

"As an American, I love to flaunt my freedom; a badge of honor for the world to admire! I am free, as free as I can be! There's nothing I can't do! Except... Sometimes, I wonder if there's something I don't know... Sometimes, I wonder if there are things that I can't do..."

As Americans, we take great pride in our liberty, believing that we are as free as we can be. But what if that wasn't quite true? What if there are restrictions on some of the most innocent kinds of behavior? What if you couldn't wear cowboy boots unless you actually owned a couple of cows? What if a particular hairstyle kept you from getting a raise? What if singing off key was prohibited?

Volume One of *I am a Free American... Right?* provides a walkthrough of all fifty states and Washington DC, with hilarious illustrations highlighting some of the silliest laws in the country. Have you been breaking the law on a daily basis? Are you a serial criminal without even realizing it? Find out! Your kids will giggle and laugh... you'll laugh before questioning everything you ever believed about the rule of law.

CONTEST

In addition to the release of *I am a Free American... Right?, Volume One*, readers will have the opportunity to submit laws from their home states. If a reader's submission is selected, it will appear in *Volume Two*. Contest winners will receive one of the first printings of *Volume Two* and a signed certificate, which can be framed, stuck on the fridge, or dropped in a drawer.

F A Q s

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE "I AM A FREE AMERICAN... RIGHT?"

A pressing issue in Arizona, my current home, has been occupational licensing. Governor Ducey has pledged to take on the state licensing boards and we have seen some reform, but these laws are still on the books. What threw me off was a story of a young man in Tucson who was giving free haircuts to the homeless. He was a cosmetology student and it seemed like a win-win service; he was receiving an opportunity to practice his craft while providing a valuable and extremely human and dignifying service to members of his community in need. He was subsequently placed under investigation by the state board, putting his career at risk. We laugh about this kind of regulation, but it truly has a harmful effect on our communities.

There are a lot of silly and outrageous laws out there, many of which have been on the books for decades. So many of them are so bizarre that I couldn't help but laugh at the sheer absurdity of them. What's more interesting to me is the lack of general knowledge the public seems to have of the law. We take it for granted that the law is there to protect us, but the reality is that our criminal and regulatory code seems almost vindictive, to the point that it's hilarious. I spend so much of time writing about bad laws and pestering people with long tirades, that it seemed to be time to put it in a condensed and colorful form that will make folks laugh and question everything they believe about the rule of law.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE WITH THIS SERIES?

Most people seem to have an innate unwillingness to change their minds, especially on the issue of law and order. It's not anyone's fault; we have a difficult time breaking away from what we've been conditioned to believe. Humor, however, has an incredible effect on people. When we laugh together at the same absurdities, we are able to have and extend conversations on topics that would normally end in severe disagreements or stonewalling. Humor is a common ground we all share.

My hope is that this series will encourage readers to research their hometowns and states to see what other kinds of nonsensical legislation is out there. From that mindset, I hope to see more genuine and insightful conversations among individuals, focusing on more commonly-known legislation that is isn't just absurd, but harmful. This is how we enact positive change in our communities; it starts with a dialogue. Why not start it with a chuckle?

WHEN CAN WE EXPECT YOUR NEXT BOOK?

Volume Two is expected out early next year. In addition to Volume Two, I'm looking at an international version with laws from around the world; we all have governments and they all have strange laws that boggle the mind!

The next book in our children's series is due out later this year and will focus on the foundational principles of individual liberty, specifically dealing with voluntarism, self-ownership, and mutual consent. I'm greatly looking forward to seeing the next book in print as it has been a joy to write.

FAQs

OUT OF ALL OF THE FEATURED LAWS, WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE?

From the standpoint of "makes me laugh the most," I'd have to say the featured law from Chesapeake, VA. Threatening children with fines or jailtime for trick-or-treating over the age of twelve is pure comedy to me. Combine that with Andreea's illustration and I can't help but laugh every time I see it. Had I grown up in Chesapeake, I probably would have been arrested a number of times; it's hard to turn down a chance at free candy! I'm actually very tempted to organize a mass protest this year and get the whole town trick-or-treating; they can't arrest everyone!

From the standpoint of "so absurd I'm cross-eyed," I'd have to say New York City's "sliced bagel tax." For those that are unaware, in an effort to raise general revenue, New York City applies an eight cent tax to sliced bagels, but not whole bagels. It's as silly as a "soda tax" or "sugar tax," but with such specificity that it defies the imagination.