



## **Limitations of a First Amendment Right**

Although freedom of speech is a first amendment right, there are limitations. Here are some general rules for determining when free speech can be limited, which have been upheld by the Supreme Court.

**Clear and Present Danger** – The First Amendment does not protect the right to use speech that creates a dangerous situation.

**Fighting Words** – The First Amendment does not protect the right to use words in a face-to-face situation that are generally understood to incite violence.

**Libel and Slander** – The First Amendment does not protect the right to tell lies about someone or damage the reputation of someone through lies.

**Obscenity** – The First Amendment does not protect the right to use obscene language or distribute obscene materials.