

# The Principles of Liberty

from the essay of the same name, by Sam Aurelius Milam III

Cause of Action — There isn't a cause of action until there's a victim. Someone cannot legitimately be prosecuted merely for something that he might do. Prosecution cannot legitimately be based on mere speculation. Prosecution legitimately can be based only on actions.

Obligation — There isn't any obligation under duress. If someone is compelled by force or by the threat of force to make an agreement that he didn't want to make, then the agreement isn't binding upon him. If someone is compelled by force or by the threat of force to do something that he didn't want to do, then the consequences of what he did cannot be held against him.

Presumption of Innocence — A person must be presumed innocent. He doesn't have to prove his innocence. His refusal to attempt to prove his innocence cannot be used against him.

Burden of Proof — If someone believes that a person is guilty of something, then the accuser must prove it without the accused person's help. The accuser, not the accused person, must bear the burden of proof. A person doesn't have to do anything or say anything that might help the accuser to prove his guilt.

Self Incrimination — A person doesn't have to provide information that might be used against him. His refusal to provide such information cannot be used against him.

Silence — An accused person doesn't have to provide any information at all. His refusal to provide information cannot be used against him.

Jurisdiction — A jurisdiction doesn't legitimately apply to somebody unless he specifically and voluntarily submits to it. He doesn't have to prove that such a jurisdiction doesn't apply to him. Anyone who claims that a jurisdiction does apply to him must prove that it does. He doesn't have to help. His refusal to help cannot be used against him.