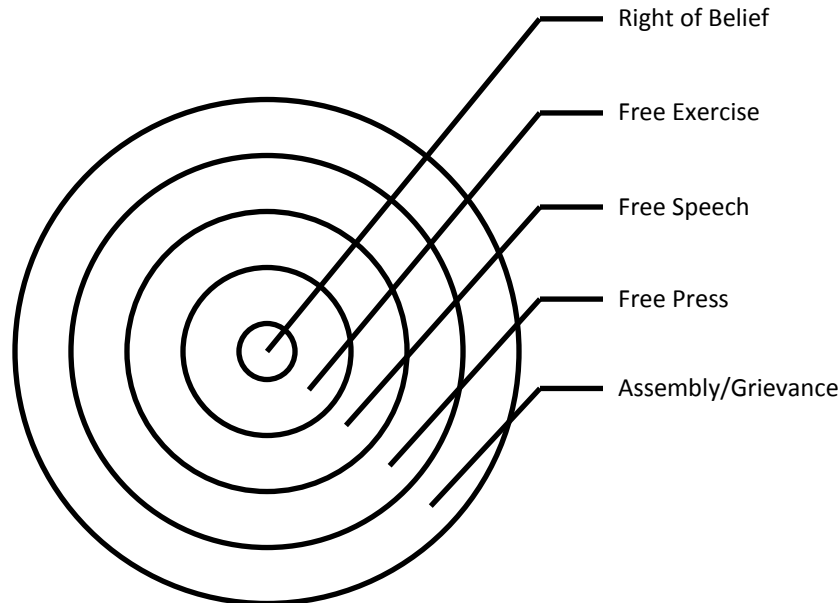


electronic media. They do not, however, have a right to broadcast indecent speech to the general public including persons who do not choose to engage in this speech, and communication of indecent speech to children is lawfully prohibited.

The Rights of Assembly and Petitioning for a Redress of Grievances are also important and protected rights under the First Amendment. But government officials have significant interests in assuring that mass public assemblies do not unreasonably block traffic, create public dangers, etc., and that public assemblies are safe and orderly with grievances expressed in a reasonable time, place, and manner.

The most vigorous constitutional protections are given to those rights closest to the core of individual free will belief. All First Amendment rights are protected. But the further the right is from the core of individual belief, and the more the individual right potentially impacts the rights and safety of others, the greater government's legitimate need to set reasonable limits on the time, place, and manner of the exercise of that right.

The Core Right of Belief and other Associated 1rst Amendment Rights



© Dayton

Individual freedom of belief is at the core of the First Amendment and the core of human liberty. But it is the official establishment of religion that has historically posed the greatest danger to both the individual right to believe and the common peace. By definition, religious faith is rooted in individual belief and free will concerning that belief. As James Madison, the author of the First Amendment recognized, efforts to use the force of government to coerce and compel beliefs have caused great pains to individuals throughout human history, and served as the basis of countless conflicts and wars.

In recognition of these concerns, the First Amendment's "Establishment Clause" prohibits government officials from establishing any favored or disfavored religion. The "Free Exercise Clause" mandates that government officials must respect individual free exercise of religion and provide reasonable accommodations for that individual free exercise of religion when necessary.