

# The American Civil Liberties Union...

<b>Is</b>	<b>Is Not</b>
➤ A non-governmental, non-profit, independent organization.	➤ A government agency.
➤ A membership organization that anyone can join for \$20/yr.	➤ A lawyers group.
➤ An advocacy organization that uses its work in the courts to breath life into the promises of the Bill of Rights.	➤ A legal services provider. ACLU gets involved in only a few court cases. We do not accept individual cases unless they will either establish new legal precedents or protect civil liberties under attack.
➤ An organization that will criticize politicians from any political party if their actions compromise civil liberties or civil rights.	➤ A partisan political organization. ACLU does not support or oppose candidates for elective office.
➤ An organization that fights for the right of everyone to speak their message—even those whose message we detest.	➤ A group that supports the free speech rights of racists because we agree with their message.
➤ An organization that even our political enemies respect because we take consistent stands based on policies developed over the last 80 years.	➤ An organization that changes its policies when lobbying government agencies just to suit a particular popular agenda.
➤ An organization that educates the public about the threats to civil liberties and civil rights.	➤ An organization that chooses issues to educate the public based on their shock value.
➤ An organization that changes policy in a very deliberate manner after much discussion.	➤ An organization that changes policies easily/lightly in response to pressure.
➤ An organization that works with coalitions where the issues support/advance civil liberties and civil rights.	➤ An organization that always agrees with its allies, supporters, members or coalitions.
➤ A representatively-run organization. The members elect board member representatives who vote on policy.	➤ An organization that has members who vote directly on ACLU policy.