

## Moral, or Political Concern?

The United States Constitution emphasizes individual liberty and freedom. As interpreted by the Supreme Court, the government can infringe on **privacy and freedom only when it can show a compelling community interest to do so**. Which of the following behaviors should be left to the moral judgment of the people, as opposed to having them controlled by political institutions? If the government is to be involved, at what level should it be—national, state, or local? What are the criteria you use in judging each issue?

1. What type of clothes to wear
2. What food to eat
3. Ownership of weapons
4. Upkeep of property, e.g., cutting, or not cutting, grass on lawn
5. How many children to have
6. Whether to send children to school
7. Funding of education. Pre-school? Elementary? Secondary? College? Post-Graduate?
8. Suicide
9. Assisted suicide
10. Abortion
11. Service in the armed forces
12. Unrestricted use of private property
13. Welfare for poor. Adults? Children (to what age)?
14. Income distribution
15. Use of “drugs”, including alcohol and tobacco.
16. Health Care.
17. Economic activities. If not laissez-faire, where do you draw the line?
18. Working conditions of: adults, women, children
19. “Civil rights”
20. How children are disciplined by parents
21. Consensual sexual behavior