

*District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)*

FACT CARD 1 Dick Heller is a District of Columbia special police officer. His application to the District's government for a permit to keep a handgun in his home was denied.

FACT CARD 2 The district court dismissed Heller's suit against the District of Columbia on the ground that the Second Amendment does not protect an individual right to bear arms separate and apart from service in the militia.

FACT CARD 3 The appellate court held that the District of Columbia's gun regulations violate the Constitution. They concluded that it protects an individual right that is not confined to service in the militia. Because handguns are descendants of the earlier weapons and are still in use today, they may not be banned. They also held that the requirement that handguns be stored and disabled is unconstitutional because it prevents them from being used for self-defense.

FACT CARD 4 The Second Amendment states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

FACT CARD 5 In 1976, the District of Columbia enacted strict gun control laws, including a ban on all handguns and a requirement that all other guns in homes be kept unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock.

FACT CARD 6 Dick Heller and five other District of Columbia residents challenged the District's gun control law, claiming they needed functional guns in their homes for self-defense.

FACT CARD 7 In *U.S. v. Miller* (1939), the Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment did not entitle an individual to keep and bear a sawed-off shotgun. They stated that this weapon is not any part of the ordinary military equipment or that its use could contribute to the common defense.

FACT CARD 8 Many lower courts have ruled that reasonable gun regulations, like hand gun registration, are allowed under the Second Amendment.