



Oaths Act 1978

1978 CHAPTER 19

PART II

UNITED KINGDOM

Oaths

3 Swearing with uplifted hand

If any person to whom an oath is administered desires to swear with uplifted hand, in the form and manner in which an oath is usually administered in Scotland, he shall be permitted so to do, and the oath shall be administered to him in such form and manner without further question.

4 Validity of oaths

- (1) In any case in which an oath may lawfully be and has been administered to any person, if it has been administered in a form and manner other than that prescribed by law, he is bound by it if it has been administered in such form and with such ceremonies as he may have declared to be binding.
- (2) Where an oath has been duly administered and taken, the fact that the person to whom it was administered had, at the time of taking it, no religious belief, shall not for any purpose affect the validity of the oath.

Solemn affirmations

5 Making of solemn affirmations

- (1) Any person who objects to being sworn shall be permitted to make his solemn affirmation instead of taking an oath.

section 60(6) of the Naval Discipline Act 1957.

- (6) Nothing in this Act shall be taken as prejudicing the operation of section 38 of the Interpretation Act 1889 (which relates to the effect of repeals).

8 Short title, extent and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Oaths Act 1978.
- (2) Part I of this Act does not extend to Scotland.
- (3) It is hereby declared that this Act extends to Northern Ireland.
- (4) In their application to each of the court-martial enactments subsections (4) and (5) of section 7 above extend to any territory to which that enactment extends.
- (5) This Act shall come into force on the expiration of the period of one month from the date on which it is passed.