



Witnesses Act 1806

1806 CHAPTER 37 46 Geo 3

An Act to declare the Law with respect to Witnesses refusing to answer. [5th May 1806]

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 Short title given by [Short Titles Act 1896 \(c. 14\)](#)

Declaring the law respecting witnesses refusing to answer questions.

Whereas doubts have arisen whether a witness can by law refuse to answer a question relevant to the matter in issue, the answering of which has no tendency to accuse himself, or to expose him to any penalty or forfeiture, but the answering of which may establish or tend to establish that he owes a debt, or is otherwise subject to a civil suit at the instance of his Majesty or of some other person or persons: A witness cannot by law refuse to answer a question relevant to the matter in issue, the answering of which has no tendency to accuse himself or to expose him to penalty or forfeiture of any nature whatsoever, by reason only or on the sole ground that the answering of such question may establish or tend to establish that he owes a debt, or is otherwise subject to a civil suit either at the instance of his Majesty or of any other person or persons.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Witnesses Act 1806.