Oaths Act 1978

1978 CHAPTER 19

PART I

ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

1 Manner of administration of oaths.

(1) Any oath may be administered and taken in England, Wales or Northern Ireland in the following form and manner:—
The person taking the oath shall hold the New Testament, or, in the case of a Jew, the Old Testament, in his uplifted hand, and shall say or repeat after the officer administering the oath the words "I swear by Almighty God that . . . . . .", followed by the words of the oath prescribed by law.

(2) The officer shall (unless the person about to take the oath voluntarily objects thereto, or is physically incapable of so taking the oath) administer the oath in the form and manner aforesaid without question.

(3) In the case of a person who is neither a Christian nor a Jew, the oath shall be administered in any lawful manner.

(4) In this section "officer" means any person duly authorised to administer oaths.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 S. 1 applied (with modifications) (31.10.2009) by The Court Martial Appeal Court Rules 2009 (S.I. 2009/2657), **rule 15**, Sch. 1

C2 S. 1 applied (with modifications) (31.10.2009) by The Armed Forces (Court Martial) Rules 2009 (S.I. 2009/2041), **rule 21**

C3 S. 1 applied (with modifications) (31.10.2009) by The Armed Forces (Summary Hearing and Activation of Suspended Sentences of Service Detention) Rules 2009 (S.I. 2009/1216), **rule 14**

C4 S. 1 applied (with modifications) (31.10.2009) by The Armed Forces (Summary Appeal Court) Rules 2009 (S.I. 2009/1211), **rule 28**

C5 S. 1 applied (with modifications) (31.10.2009) by The Armed Forces (Service Civilian Court) Rules 2009 (S.I. 2009/1209), **rule 20**

C6 S. 1 applied (with modifications) (31.10.2009) by The Armed Forces (Warrants of Arrest for Service Offences) Rules 2009 (S.I. 2009/1110), **rule 16**

C7 S. 1 applied (with modifications) (31.10.2009) by The Armed Forces (Custody Proceedings) Rules 2009 (S.I. 2009/1098), **rule 21**

C8 S. 1 modified (31.1.1999) by S.I. 1998/1504 (N.I. 9), **art. 19(1)(3)**; S.R. 1999/25, **art. 2**
S. 1 modified (4.11.1996) by S.I. 1995/755 (N.I. 2), **art. 169(1)**; S.R. 1996/297, **art. 2(2)**

2 Consequential amendments.

In the following provisions, namely—

(a) section 28(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963 [M1] ; and

(b) section 56(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968 [M2]

(each of which prescribes the form of oath for use in juvenile courts and by children and young persons in other courts) for the words "section 2 of the Oaths Act 1909" there shall be substituted the words "section 1 of the Oaths Act 1978".

Marginal Citations

M1 1963 c. 37

M2 1968 c. 34 (N.I.).

Changes to legislation:
There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Oaths Act 1978, Part I.