



# 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](#)

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects  
for the Oaths Act 1978, Section 1. (See end of Document for details)*

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- 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)**

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Oaths Act 1978, Section 1.