

## **For and Oath**

“Do you solemnly state that the evidence you shall give in this issue (or matter) shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?” [\(for non-believers use, so help your Honor? instead\)](#)

## **For an affirmation:**

“Do you solemnly state, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence that you shall give in this issue (or matter) shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?”

## **Administering an Affirmation:**

-  
In states that do not require statutory wording, common phrasing for an affirmation for a jurat, verification or affidavit might be: “Do you affirm that the statements in this document are true to the best of your knowledge and belief?”

## **Tips for Conducting Oaths and Affirmations**

-

- **Never Take Shortcuts:** If the document being notarized requires an oath or affirmation, you must verbally administer it — even if the signer attempts to rush you or avoid it entirely.
- **Ask, Don't Advise:** If a signer is unclear about the difference between an oath and affirmation, you may explain the differences but you cannot legally advise the signer which one to perform; it's his choice.
- **Honor Your Signers' Beliefs:** Since oaths and affirmations are equally legal and acceptable, the Notary should honor the signer's choice and use the appropriate wording and gestures.
- **Speak Clearly:** Make sure the signer responds with a clear "Yes" when you administer the oath or affirmation. Because the signer's answer puts them under penalty of perjury, it's important that the signer's response be clearly understood by the Notary. Nodding, saying "uh-huh" or other ambiguous responses are not appropriate.
- **Take It Seriously:** Some signers — and even some Notaries — make light of the situation but it's clearly not the best time to crack jokes. Expect professionalism at all times by being an exacting role model.
- **Record It In Your Journal:** If you administer an oath or affirmation, note it carefully in your journal. Once you recognize the basics and have several declarations under your belt, administering them will be a cinch.