

Oath and Affirmations

An interpreter must take the oath or make an affirmation that they will interpret to the best of their skill and ability. This might be at the start of the hearing (for defendants), or before a witness requiring an interpreter giving evidence.

The oath can be administered in a manner appropriate to the religious belief of the person or in any way that the person taking it declares it to be binding on them. Copies of the Koran and Old Testament should be available in all courts and tribunals.

When interpreting for a defendant	
<i>Oath</i>	<i>Affirmation</i>
<p>Court or tribunal staff will ask the interpreter to stand and take the bible (or other text) in their hand, and ask:</p> <p><i>“Do you swear by the Almighty God that you shall truly and faithfully interpret from the _____ language into the English language, and the English language into the _____ language, all matters and things regarding the present case, to the best of your skill and ability?”</i></p> <p>The interpreter must say that they agree.</p>	<p>Court or tribunal staff will ask the interpreter to stand, and ask:</p> <p><i>“Do you solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that you shall truly and faithfully interpret from the _____ language into the English language, and the English language into the _____ language, all matters and things regarding the present case, to the best of your skill and ability?”</i></p> <p>The interpreter must say that they agree.</p>

When interpreting for a witness	
<i>Oath</i>	<i>Affirmation</i>
<p>Court or tribunal staff will ask the interpreter to stand and take the bible (or other text) in their hand, and ask:</p> <p><i>“Do you swear by the Almighty God that you shall truly and faithfully interpret the oath or affirmation to be administered to the witness and the evidence about to be given, and all other matters and things regarding the present case, which you shall be required to interpret from the _____ language to the English language, and the English language into the _____ language, to the best of your skill and ability?”</i></p> <p>The interpreter must say that they agree.</p>	<p>Court or tribunal staff will ask the interpreter to stand, and ask:</p> <p><i>“Do you solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that you shall truly and faithfully interpret the oath or affirmation to be administered to the witness and the evidence about to be given, and all other matters and things regarding the present case, which you shall be required to interpret from the _____ language into the English language, and the English language into the _____, to the best of your skill and ability?”</i></p> <p>The interpreter must say that they agree.</p>

Witness's oath or affirmation (including defendant's giving evidence)

When a witness requiring an interpreter is called to give evidence, the interpreter will take their oath or make an affirmation, then the witness will take their oath or make an affirmation. The judicial officer or court taker administers the oath or affirmation in English, which is then to be interpreted into the witness' preferred language.

<i>Oath</i>	<i>Affirmation</i>
<p>Court or tribunal staff will ask the witness to stand and take the bible (or other text) in their hand, and ask:</p> <p><i>“Do you swear by the Almighty God that the evidence you are about to give regarding the matter now before the court shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?”</i></p> <p>The interpreter will then repeat the oath in the witness' preferred language. The witness must say that they agree, which should also be repeated by the interpreter in English.</p>	<p>Court or tribunal staff will ask the witness to stand, and ask:</p> <p><i>“Do you solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that the evidence you are about to give regarding the now before the court shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?”</i></p> <p>The interpreter will then repeat the affirmation in the witness' preferred language. The witness must say that they agree, which should also be repeated by the interpreter in English.</p>