

AN ACT TO MAKE THE FORM OF OATHS CONSISTENT AND CONSTITUTIONAL

Technical amendments making six of 21 oaths consistent with the other 15 oaths. Assuring each person or official has taken a meaningful and truthful oath, without necessitating the public outing of anyone's beliefs. This will have all Connecticut oaths conform to the U.S. Constitution and with the U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous ruling in *Torcaso v. Watkins* (1961).

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 1-23 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

Sec. 1-23. When any person[,] is **required** to take an oath, a solemn **swearing or** affirmation [may] **shall** be administered to [him] **such person** in the form of the oath prescribed, [~~except that instead of the word "swear"~~] the words "solemnly [~~and~~] **or** sincerely affirm and declare" shall be used and [~~instead of~~] the words "so help you God [~~"the words "and~~] **or** upon the [~~pains and penalties of perjury or false statement~~] **penalty of perjury**" shall be used, **or as otherwise specified in section 1-25.**

Section 1. Section 1-25 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

Sec. 1-25. Forms of oaths. The forms of oaths shall be as follows, to wit:

FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS.

You do solemnly swear [(or affirm, as the case may be)] that you will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut, so long as you continue a citizen thereof; and that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the office of to the best of your abilities; so help you God **or upon the penalty of perjury.**

FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC.

You do solemnly swear [(or affirm, as the case may be)] that you will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut; and that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the office of notary public to the best of your abilities; so help you God **or upon the penalty of perjury.**

FOR ELECTORS.

You solemnly swear [(or affirm, as the case may be)] that you will be true and faithful to the constitutions and governments of the State of Connecticut and the United States of America; that

the statements made in your application for admission as an elector are true and complete; and that your privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of conviction of a felony; so help you God **or upon the penalty of perjury.**

FOR ATTORNEYS.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will do nothing dishonest, and will not knowingly allow anything dishonest to be done in court, and that you will inform the court of any dishonesty of which you have knowledge; that you will not knowingly maintain or assist in maintaining any cause of action that is false or unlawful; that you will not obstruct any cause of action for personal gain or malice; but that you will exercise the office of attorney, in any court in which you may practice, according to the best of your learning and judgment, faithfully, to both your client and the court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR PETIT JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will, without respect of any persons or favor of any person, decide this case between the state of Connecticut and the defendant (or defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state, as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else to speak to you, about this case until you have been discharged by the court; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR ALTERNATE JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that, if you become a member of the jury for this case, you will, without respect of any persons or favor of any person, decide this case between the state of Connecticut and the defendant (or defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state, as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else to speak to you about this case until you have been discharged by the court; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR JURORS IN CIVIL CAUSES.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will decide this case between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider

what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else to speak to you, about this case; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR ALTERNATE JURORS IN CIVIL CAUSES.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that, if you become a member of the jury for this case, you will decide this case between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else to speak to you, about this case; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

VOIR DIRE.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will answer truthfully all questions that you are asked, none of which will be about the merits of the case for which the jury is being selected; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR WITNESSES.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that the evidence you shall give concerning this case shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR INVESTIGATORY GRAND JURY WITNESSES.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that the evidence you shall give concerning this investigation into the commission of a crime or crimes, shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR WITNESSES TWELVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

You promise that you will tell the truth.

FOR AN INTERPRETER IN A CRIMINAL CASE.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will interpret accurately the information (or indictment) that charges the accused with a crime and all questions that the accused may be asked under the direction of the court in a language the accused can understand and speak; that you will interpret accurately the pleas of the accused to the

information (or indictment) and the answers of the accused to the court (or to the court and jury) in English; and that you will make all interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR AN INTERPRETER IN COURT.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will interpret accurately the oath to be administered to the witness and all questions that the witness may be asked under direction of the court in a language the witness can understand and speak; that you will interpret accurately the answers of the witness to the court (or to the court and jury) in English; and that you will make all interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR AN INTERPRETER FOR A DEAF OR HEARING IMPAIRED JUROR.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will interpret accurately to a deaf or hearing impaired juror the juror orientation program, any oath to be administered to the juror, all testimony and other relevant conversation, and all questions that the juror may be asked under the direction of the court; that you will interpret accurately the answers of the juror to the court in English; that you will not participate in any manner in the deliberations of the jury other than making an accurate interpretation of the remarks of the jurors during deliberations; that you will make all interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; and that you will not communicate with anyone outside the jury concerning the business or matters before the jury; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR ASSESSORS, TO SUBSCRIBE UPON ABSTRACT.

I,, assessor of the town of, do solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that I believe that all the lists, and the abstract of said town for the year 20.., are made up and perfected according to law; so help me God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR PLAINTIFF, WHEN INDIFFERENT PERSON IS AUTHORIZED TO SERVE WRIT.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you believe the plaintiff is (or plaintiffs are) in danger of losing the debt (damage or other thing) in this writ, unless an indifferent person is authorized to immediately serve this writ; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

FOR MEMBERS OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

You solemnly swear ~~{}~~or affirm, as the case may be~~}~~ that you will truly try and determine, according to the evidence given in court, the matters depending between this state and the officer (or officers) now to be tried; that you will not divulge the sentence of the court until the same

shall have been approved or disapproved, according to law; neither will you, at any time, disclose the vote or opinion of any member of the court, unless required by due course of law; so help you God **or upon the penalty of perjury.**

FOR THE JUDGE-ADVOCATE OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

You solemnly swear ~~{~~[or affirm, as the case may be~~}~~] that you will not, at any time whatever, disclose the vote or opinion of any member of any court-martial in which you may be called to act, unless required by due course of law, nor divulge the sentence of any such court, unless the same shall have been approved or disapproved, according to law; and that you will faithfully and impartially do the duty of judge-advocate, according to your best ability; so help you God **or upon the penalty of perjury.**

FOR OFFICIALS APPOINTED TO SERVE IN ANY POLLING PLACE
IN ANY ELECTION OR PRIMARY.

You solemnly swear~~{~~[or affirm, as the case may be~~}~~] that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, your duties as, to the best of your ability; and that you will serve in this election or primary as the case may be, as an official, completely impartial with respect to any candidate or any political party; so help you God **or upon the penalty of perjury.**

FOR ALL OTHER PERSONS OF WHOM AN OATH IS REQUIRED.

You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, your duties as to the best of your abilities; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.