

## An Act respecting Affirmations and Declarations.

For the substitution of affirmations in lieu of oaths in certain cases, Preamble.  
Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows :

1. If any person called as a witness, or required to take any oath, or Affirmation  
5 requiring or desiring to make any affidavit or deposition in any Court of may be made  
Criminal or Civil jurisdiction, or in any Criminal or Civil proceeding, in- stead of oath  
shall refuse or be unwilling, from alleged conscientious motives, to be by any person  
sworn, it shall be lawful for the Court or Judge or other presiding offi- having con-  
cer or person, or for a Commissioner for taking affidavits in any Court, scientious  
or Notary Public, or Justice of the Peace, or other person authorized to scruples to  
10 hear the testimony of witnesses or to take affidavits or depositions, as the take an oath.  
case may be, upon being satisfied of the sincerity of such objection, to  
permit such person, in stead of being sworn, to make his or her solemn  
affirmation in the words following, viz :—

I, A. B., do solemnly affirm that the taking of any oath is, accord- Form.  
15 ing to my religious belief, unlawful ; and I do also solemnly affirm

*(Here state the facts affirmed.)*

Which solemn affirmation shall be of the same force and effect as if Perjury.  
such person had taken an oath in the usual form : and if any person  
making such affirmation shall be convicted of having wilfully, falsely and  
20 corruptly affirmed any matter or thing which, if the same had been sworn  
in the usual form, would have amounted to wilful and corrupt perjury,  
every such offender shall be subject to the same pains, penalties and  
forfeitures to which persons convicted of wilful perjury are subject.

2. It shall be sufficient, in open Court, for the Court or Judge or Form in cases  
52 presiding officer or Clerk of such Court, to address the person or persons of affidavit.  
affirming in the third person, in the terms set forth in the first  
section of this Act, with such changes and additions as may be necessary  
to adapt it to the forms at present in use, and to conclude with the inter-  
rogatory "Are you content," to which each person affirming shall  
30 audibly respond "I am."

3. All forms at present in use in legal proceedings in Court or Forms in use  
otherwise shall be adapted to the requirements of this Act, and in all to be adopted  
cases, of written affirmations they shall conclude according to the con- to Act.  
clusion of the form in the Schedule to this Act annexed, marked "A."

4. And whereas, it may be necessary and proper in many Certain cases  
65 cases relating to the confirmation of written instruments or allega- in which affir-  
tions or for the verification of facts or proof of debts, or of the mations may  
execution of deeds, or signing of letters or other writings, papers be required.  
or documents, or relating to the proof of the loss, or the destruction  
40 of deeds, letters, papers or documents of any kind, or relating to  
the birth, marriage or death of any person, or relating to the settle-  
ment and determination of disputes and differences between persons out  
of Court, or relating to the possession or occupation of lands, or the