



COURT REPORTERS BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



Best Practice Pointer No. 17 Oaths

- When administering an oath, the witness (or interpreter) must provide an audible verbal response.
- A “check” interpreter does not need to be administered an oath.

SAMPLE OATHS

Standard oath:

California Code of Civil Procedure § 2094(a) states:

An oath, affirmation, or declaration in an action or a proceeding, may be administered by obtaining an affirmative response to one of the following questions:

- (1) “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?”
- (2) “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?”

Interpreter oath:

“Do you solemnly state or affirm that the interpretation you are about to provide from English to (insert foreign language) and from (insert foreign language) to English shall be true and correct to the best of your ability?”

Oath for a minor:

“Do you promise you will tell the truth?”

Oath administered partway through proceedings:

See Best Practice Pointer No. 8.

Occasionally, a reporter inadvertently does not place the witness under oath prior to the beginning of testimony.

As soon as the reporter realizes the omission, the best practice is to stop the proceeding and place the witness under oath using an amended oath such as:

“Do you solemnly state the statements you have given and the testimony you are about to give are the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?”

Best practice pointers are not regulations or statutorily mandated. They are a way for the Board to provide guidance on situations not expressly set out in statute or regulation. Although the pointers may be used by licensees as a guide, the Board will not use them as a basis for discipline or enforcement of any type.



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