

## Review of Oaths and Affirmations

This document compares citizenship oaths from various countries and lists some of the oaths New Zealanders take on a regular basis.

### Citizenship Oaths

The Republican Movement has done some research to compare our citizenship oaths. Our current oath of allegiance is very similar to the Canadian one, with allegiance being sworn to the Queen, along with agreement to observe laws and fulfil duties as a citizen. Australia has dropped the reference to the Queen and moved toward oaths based on the country and defining ideas, such as democracy. People in the UK only swear allegiance to the Queen.

Several republics are also included in the comparison, with oaths from the US, Ireland and South Africa.

	Oath	Affirmation
New Zealand	I (your name) swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of New Zealand, Her heirs and successors according to the law, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of New Zealand and fulfil my duties as a New Zealand citizen. So help me God.	I (your name) solemnly and sincerely affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of New Zealand, Her heirs and successors according to the law, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of New Zealand and fulfil my duties as a New Zealand citizen.
Canada	I swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen.	I affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen.
Australia	From this time forward, under God, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey.	From this time forward, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey.
UK	I, A.B. [full name], swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her Heirs and Successors, according to law.	I, A.B. [full name], of , do solemnly and sincerely affirm, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her Heirs and Successors, according to law.

*Republican Movement*

	Oath	Affirmation
US	I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by <b>the</b> law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.	
Ireland	I...of...(name in full) having applied to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform for a certificate of naturalisation, hereby solemnly declare my fidelity to the Irish nation and my loyalty to the State.	
South Africa	I..... (AB), do hereby solemnly declare that I will be loyal to the Republic of South Africa, promote all that will advance it and oppose all that may harm it, uphold and respect its Constitution and commit myself to the furtherance of the ideals and principles contained therein.	

### Other NZ Oaths

Various other people must swear allegiance to the Queen and a number of those oaths are quoted below.

#### **NZ Judicial Oath S18, Oaths and Declarations Act 1957**

I,....., swear that I will well and truly serve Her [or His] Majesty [specify as above], Her [or His] heirs and successors, according to law, in the office of ; and I

will do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of New Zealand without fear or favour, affection or ill will. So help me God.

**Executive Councillor's Oath S19, Oaths and Declarations Act 1957**

....., being chosen and admitted of the Executive Council of New Zealand, swear that I will to the best of my judgment, at all times, when thereto required, freely give my counsel and advice to the Governor-General for the time being, for the good management of the affairs of New Zealand. That I will not directly nor indirectly reveal such matters as shall be debated in Council and committed to my secrecy, but that I will in all things be a true and faithful Councillor. So help me God.

**Parliamentary Under-Secretary's Oath S20, Oaths and Declarations Act 1957**

I,....., swear that I will well and truly serve Her [or His] Majesty [Specify as above], Her [or His] heirs and successors, according to law, in the office of Parliamentary Under-Secretary. So help me God.

**Official Oath S21, Oaths and Declarations Act 1957**

I,....., swear that I will well and truly serve Her [or His] Majesty [Specify as above], Her [or His] heirs and successors, according to law, in the office of . So help me God.

**Oath for Teachers**

S162(1) of the Education Act 1964, as quoted below, requires teachers to swear an oath of allegiance to the Queen. The section is no longer enforced, but, interestingly enough, only private school managers can be fined (up to \$100) for employing teachers who haven't sworn the oath.

No person shall be employed or shall continue to be employed, or shall act as a teacher, in any State primary school, secondary school, technical institute, [community college,] [college of education,] endowed school, or private school or in any teaching position under the control of the Department of Education or under an Education Board unless, in the case of a New Zealand citizen, he has made and subscribed an oath or affirmation of allegiance, and, in any other case, he has made and subscribed such an oath or affirmation or has made and subscribed in the prescribed form an oath or affirmation that he will not, directly or indirectly, use words or be concerned in any act which would be disloyal to Her Majesty if those words were spoken or written, or that act was committed, by a New Zealand citizen.