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ACTS SUPPLEMENT

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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 13th November 2000 and assented to by the President on 2nd December 2000:—

OATHS AND DECLARATIONS ACT 2000

(No. 38 of 2000)

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REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

No. 38 of 2000.

I assent.



S R NATHAN,
President.
2nd December 2000.

An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to oaths and statutory declarations, and to repeal certain statutes, and to make consequential amendments to certain written laws.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Oaths and Declarations Act 2000 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“affirmation” means an affirmation referred to in section 5;

“caution” means a caution referred to in section 6;

“oath” means an oath administered or taken for any purpose, whether in judicial proceedings or otherwise;

“person acting judicially” means a person, tribunal, commission or other body having by law or consent of the parties power to receive evidence.

PART II

OATHS

Power to administer oaths, etc.

3.—(1) A court or person acting judicially may administer, or may empower an officer to administer, an oath, affirmation or caution.

(2) Subsection (1) is without prejudice to the provisions of any other written law conferring on any person the power to administer an oath, affirmation or caution.

Oaths to be taken by witnesses and interpreters

4.—(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of any other written law, oaths shall be taken by the following persons:

- (a) a person who may be lawfully examined, or who may give or be required to give evidence, by or before a court or person acting judicially;

- (b) an interpreter of questions put to, and of evidence given by, a person referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to —

- (a) the official interpreter of a court; or
- (b) a certificated interpreter in the public service,

when performing his duties as such interpreter, if he has taken an oath to faithfully discharge those duties.

Affirmation in lieu of oath

5. Where a person required by section 4 or any other written law to take an oath —

- (a) is a Hindu or Muslim or of some other religion according to which oaths are not of binding force; or
- (b) has a conscientious objection to taking an oath,

he may, instead of taking an oath, make an affirmation.

Caution in lieu of oath or affirmation

6. Where a person required by section 4 or any other written law to take an oath ought not, in the opinion of the court or person acting judicially, to take an oath or make an affirmation by reason of immaturity of age, he may, instead of taking an oath or making an affirmation, be cautioned by the court or person acting judicially to state the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Form of oath and affirmation

7. An oath under section 4 shall be taken and administered, and an affirmation under section 5 shall be made and administered, in accordance with the form and manner prescribed by the Rules of Court (Cap. 322, R 5) or any other written law.