

# SUPREME COURT OF YUKON

---

PRACTICE DIRECTION  
General-27

*Oaths and Affirmations*

---

Before a party or a witness for a party is called to give evidence, the party or counsel must advise the court clerk whether that witness prefers to swear an oath or affirm.

Witnesses preferring to swear an oath may do so using the Bible, the Qur'an, the eagle feather, or any item of spiritual significance or any other religious text that the witness declares to be sufficient to bind his or her conscience, and as permitted by the presiding judge. It is the responsibility of the party calling the witness or their counsel to make arrangements for the appropriate item or religious text to be available, and to inform the clerk of any specific handling instructions. Bibles and eagle feathers are present in every courtroom. The Qur'an is available upon request.

If any special arrangements are required with respect to the item or religious text, counsel must advise the Supervisor, Court Clerks two clear days before the trial or hearing date. The Supervisor, Court Clerks can be reached at 867-667-3429 or at [clerkssupervisor@yukon.ca](mailto:clerkssupervisor@yukon.ca). If the special arrangements cannot be easily accommodated, the Supervisor, Court Clerks will refer the matter to the presiding judge.

Duncan C.J.  
November 18, 2022