

Oaths and Affirmations¹

While exact recitation of the oaths below are not required, the oaths or affirmations given should substantially correspond to the suggested language.

Oath for Jurors Before Voir Dire	“Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will truthfully and completely answer all questions about your qualifications to serve as jurors in this case?” See M Civ JI 1.04 .
Oath for Jurors Following Selection	“Each of you do solemnly swear (or affirm) that, in this action now before the court, you will justly decide the questions submitted to you, that, unless you are discharged by the court from further deliberation, you will render a true verdict, and that you will render your verdict only on the evidence introduced and in accordance with the instructions of the court, so help you God.” See MCR 2.511(I)(1) .
Oath for Witness	“Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?” See MRE 603 ; MCL 600.1432 ; MCL 600.1434 . See also <i>Donkers v Kovach</i> , 277 Mich App 366, 370 (2007).
Oath for Interpreter	“Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will make a true and understandable interpretation to the witness and that you will accurately interpret the statements made by the witness to the best of your ability?” See MRE 604 ; MCL 393.506(1) .
Oath for Child Witness	Ask the child if he or she understands the difference between a lie and the truth, and whether the child promises to tell the truth. A later showing that the child lacks the ability to testify truthfully reflects on credibility, not competency. See MRE 601 ; M Crim JI 5.9 . See also <i>People v Watson</i> , 245 Mich App 572 (2001).

¹See the Michigan Judicial Institute’s *Civil Proceedings Benchbook*, Chapter 7.

