**G.**  **OATHS AND AFFIRMATIONS**

**(Joint Practice Direction of the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court)**

1. Oath or Affirmation
   1. To swear an oath is to give a religious promise to tell the truth. To give a solemn affirmation is to give a non-religious promise to tell the truth.
   2. The court offers witnesses a choice whether to swear an oath or to give a solemn affirmation. The clerk of the court proceeding asks the witness if they prefer to swear an oath, or to give a solemn affirmation.
   3. The preference to swear an oath or to give a solemn affirmation should be consistent with the individual’s beliefs to bind their conscience, in accordance with the *Evidence Act,* RSPEI 1988, Cap. E-11.
2. Eagle Feather

During a court ceremony held on September 22, 2023, the three courts of Prince Edward Island, the Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island, and the Prince Edward Island Provincial Court, were presented with Eagle Feathers, to be used as a symbol which binds the conscience of its user.

1. Other Holy Book or Religious Symbol

If a witness’ preference is to swear an oath on the Eagle Feather, or a Holy Book other than the Christian Bible, either the trial coordinator’s office (Supreme Court) or the clerk (Court of Appeal) is to be advised in advance of the hearing. Further direction will be provided by the court.