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Australian Government The Attorney-General's Department

Statutory Declarations

A statutory declaration is a written statement declared to be true in the presence of an authorised witness. A person wishing to use a statutory declaration in connection with a law of the Commonwealth, the Australian Capital Territory or certain other Territories must make the declaration in accordance with the Statutory Declarations Act 1959 (the Act).


Under the Act a person who wilfully makes a false statement in a statutory declaration is guilty of an offence and may be fined or gaoled, or both.

The Act provides that a statutory declaration must be in the prescribed form and must be made before a prescribed witness. The form for making a statutory declaration and the persons who can witness a statutory declaration are prescribed under the Statutory Declarations Regulations 1993 (the Regulations).

A new form for making a statutory declaration came into effect on 26 November 2004. The Regulations allow either the new form or its predecessor to be used until 31 December 2005.

Persons wishing to make a statutory declaration in relation to a matter concerning State law will need to check the procedures for making and using declarations with the relevant State.

You can also download the new statutory declaration form as a Word document | Word | PDF

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Robert Garran Offices, National Circuit, BARTON ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6250 6666 Fax: (02) 6250 5900
ABN: 92 661 124 436