

CHICKEN OATH (CIVIL & CRIMINAL)

(The witness is handed a piece of paper with the following writing:)

**OATH MADE BY.....(witness signs his name)..... BEING A TRUE WITNESS,
I SHALL ENJOY HAPPINESS AND MY SONS AND GRANDSONS WILL
PROSPER FOREVER.**

**IF I GIVE FALSE EVIDENCE I SHALL DIE ON THE STREET, EARTH
WILL DESTROY ME, AND I SHALL FOREVER SUFFER IN
ADVERSITY, AND ALL MY OFFSPRING WILL BE EXTERMINATED.
IN BURNING THIS OATH, I HUMBLY SUBMIT MYSELF TO THE WILL
OF HEAVEN WHICH HAS BRILLIANT EYES TO SEE.**

THE.....YEAR OF THE REIGN OF THE DAY,

THE.....MOON.

.....(WITNESS SIGNS HIS NAME).....

(cont'd on next card)

CHICKEN OATH (CONTINUED)

**THE WITNESS HAVING SIGNED HIS NAME TWICE, AND A COCK (MALE CHICKEN)
HAVING BEEN PROCURED, THE COURT (AND JURY, WHERE APPLICABLE) ADJOURNS
TO A CONVENIENT PLACE OUTSIDE THE BUILDING WHERE THE FULL CEREMONY OF
ADMINISTERING THE OATH IS PERFORMED. A BLOCK OF WOOD, AN AXE OR A
KNIFE, NOT LESS THAN THREE PUNK STICKS, A PAIR OF CANDLES AND JOSS PAPER
BEING OBTAINED, CHINESE CANDLES ARE STUCK IN THE GROUND AND LIGHTED.
THE OATH IS THEN READ OUT LOUD BY THE WITNESS, AFTER WHICH HE WRAPS IT
IN JOSS PAPER AS USED IN RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES. THE WITNESS THEN LAYS THE
COCK ON THE BLOCK AND CHOPS ITS HEAD OFF, THEN SETS FIRE TO THE OATH
FROM THE CANDLES AND HOLDS IT UNTIL IT IS CONSUMED.**