The Oath of Allegiance

The Oath of Allegiance is a statement that gives support to the principals of the United States Constitution. Only after taking the oath does one become a full citizen.*

Part 8 of the N-400, the applications for Naturalization, asks questions about the Oath of Allegiance. At the Citizenship interview, the INS officer will ask questions from part 8 to determine if you understand and accept the oath. You will later take the oath at your naturalization ceremony.

Oath of Allegiance

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

A simple version of the oath would read:

- I swear that I will not be loyal to any other country.
- I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the U.S.
- I will defend the U.S. from enemies outside and inside the U.S.
- I will bear arms, carry a gun, or fight for the United States if asked.
- I will do non-fighting work for the military if asked.
- I will do important work for the country if asked.
- I take this oath freely and without any doubts.

http://www.refugeeinfo.org/citizenship/preparation/11oath.html

Vocabulary

Abjure: reject

Allegiance: loyalty

Bear arms: carry a weapon

Behalf of: for **Declare: s**ay out loud

Heretofore: from now on

Fidelity: faithfulness

Mental Reservation: doubt

Non-combatant: non-fighting

Oath: promise

Potentate: ruler

Principals: fundamentals

Purpose of Evasion: in order to avoid

Renounce: give up, quit

Sovereignty: rule,