



WHY YOUR STATE SHOULD ADOPT THE UNIFORM UNSWORN DOMESTIC DECLARATIONS ACT (2016)

The Uniform Unsworn Domestic Declarations Act (UUDDA) permits the use of unsworn declarations in state court proceedings, so long as the declaration was made under penalty of perjury within the United States and includes the information provided in the Act's model form. Some benefits of the UUDDA are highlighted below.

- ***The UUDDA harmonizes state and federal law.*** Federal law already allows unsworn declarations to be used in federal courts in the United States. An unsworn declaration is treated the same as a sworn declaration if the declaration was made under penalty of perjury and contains substantially the same language set out in the federal statute. UUDDA employs the same procedure, thus harmonizing state and federal law.
- ***The UUDDA is designed to complement your state's existing law.*** Your state has already enacted the Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act to cover the use of unsworn declarations made *outside* the United States. This Act uses similar language to permit the use of unsworn declarations made *within* the United States. There is no need to go back and amend your current statute; this Act may be enacted as a corresponding provision.
- ***The UUDDA provides consistency across all states.*** Currently, many states have their own statutes and procedures regarding unsworn declarations. These statutes and rules use varying language and have different exceptions. Enacting the UUDDA eliminates inconsistencies and confusion.

For further information about the Uniform Unsworn Domestic Declarations Act, please contact ULC Legislative Counsel Kaitlin Wolff at (312) 450-6615 or kwolff@uniformlaws.org.