



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

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

- ***The UUDA 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. UUDA employs the same procedure, thus harmonizing state and federal law.
- ***The UUDA alleviates burdens on potential declarants and U.S. consulates.*** Enacting the UUDA will save time for declarants, especially those residing outside the United States. These foreign declarants will no longer need to make appointments, pass security, and physically meet with a U.S. consular officer to finalize an affidavit or statement. Accordingly, consulates will no longer have to devote so many resources to this time-consuming process.
- ***The UUDA 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 UUDA eliminates inconsistencies and confusion.

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