

**allegiance:**  
loyalty to a  
person, country,  
or belief

**abjure:**  
reject

**fidelity:**  
loyalty

**potentate:**  
ruler

**heretofore:**  
before now

## The Naturalization Oath of *Allegiance* to the United States of America

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;

**bear arms:**  
carry weapons

that I will *bear arms* on behalf of the United States when required by the law;

**noncombatant service:** non-fighting duties

that I will perform *noncombatant service* in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;

**under civilian direction:** not led by the military

that I will perform work of national importance *under civilian direction* when required by the law;

**reservation:**  
doubt

and that I take this obligation freely without any mental *reservation* or purpose of *evasion*; so help me God.

**evasion:**  
avoiding the truth