# Commissioner of Oaths Responsibilities

Effective August 2025

Oaths.co.za | Powered by Beantech (Pty) Ltd



#### Legal Foundation

All Commissioners of Oaths on Oaths.co.za operate under the authority of:

- Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act, 1963 (Act 16 of 1963)
- Regulations Governing the Administering of an Oath or Affirmation, GN **R1258 of 21 July 1972** (as amended)
- Electronic Communications and Transactions Act, 2002 (Act 25 of 2002) which provides for the legal recognition and evidentiary weight of electronic documents and signatures.

### **★** What Our Commissioners Are Authorised to Do

Commissioners registered with Oaths.co.za are authorised to:

- Certify true copies of original South African documents, including:
  - Smart ID Cards
  - Driver's Licences
  - o **Passports**
  - Proof of Address (bank confirmation letters and similar documents)
- Operate exclusively within the secure Oaths.co.za digital platform.
- Certify only what is legally permitted under South African law.
- X Not administer affidavits, affirmations, sworn statements, or declarations these services traditionally require a physical presence and remain outside the scope of Oaths.co.za.

## How Oaths.co.za Vets Commissioners

Every Commissioner on the platform is vetted through a strict onboarding process:

- Verified via face-to-face onboarding or digitally recorded verification.
- Required to submit:
  - o South African Smart ID.
  - o Proof of professional membership (e.g., SAIPA, SAICA, IRBA, LPC).
  - Valid SARS Tax Compliance Status.
  - o Proof of residential address.

• Upon approval, each Commissioner receives a unique digital token for secure platform access.

#### What the Platform Provides

Each certification is supported by Oaths.co.za's patented compliance and security infrastructure, which performs a **closed-loop forensic audit** to confirm the veracity of all information before a Commissioner can even review it:

- **Biometric Identity & Liveness Verification:** This scientifically verifiable and legally defensible method proves the user is a real, present human whose face matches their ID photo.
- **AI Document Analysis:** Our system uses Optical Character Recognition (OCR), barcode reading, and AI to confirm that all data on the document is authentic and consistent.
- DHA Confirmation: We validate the user's identity and status against the National Population Register, creating a powerful "triangulation of trust" between the user, their document, and the government's official records.
- AML/PEP/PIP/Sanctions Screening: We screen every client against national and international watchlists, a critical step that directly supports FICA compliance.
- **Blockchain Hashing and Tamper-Proof Audit Trail:** A secure, timestamped, and immutable record of every verification step is stored using blockchain technology, providing a level of legal traceability and data integrity that a paper stamp cannot match.
- Secure Digital Signatures: The final certification is sealed with a 2048-bit encrypted digital signature, ensuring the document cannot be altered without detection.

## **Professional Obligations**

Commissioners on Oaths.co.za remain subject to the codes of conduct and disciplinary frameworks of their professional bodies, including SAIPA, SAICA, IRBA, and the Legal Practice Council. They must:

- Act with integrity, independence, and impartiality.
- Maintain confidentiality of all client documents and data.
- Ensure every certification complies with the law and Oaths.co.za's standards.