

April 2020

Client briefing

Statements of truth

The rules concerning statements of truth change on 6 April 2020

Statements of case, witness statements and some other court documents must include a statement of truth in accordance with the Civil Procedure Rules ([CPR 22](#)). The form of the statement of truth used to say “I believe that the facts stated in this [document] are true”. With effect from 6 April 2020, a statement of truth should now read as follows:

“I believe that the facts stated in this [document] are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.”

Other amendments to the CPR coming into effect on 6 April require a statement of truth to be dated with the date on which it was signed.

The statement of truth on a witness statement must be made by the maker of the statement. The amendments clarify that it must be in the witness’s own language and the statement should state the process by which it has been prepared - for example, face to face, over the telephone and/or through an interpreter.

In the case of a statement of case or other court document, the statement of truth can be signed by the party, or by a senior person where the party is a company or organisation. Mills & Reeve LLP can sign statements of truth where you the client have approved the document in question and authorised us to do so. If we do sign on your behalf, we will be confirming your belief that the facts stated are true. If you do not have an honest belief in the truth of the facts stated, proceedings may be brought against you for contempt of court, the penalties for which are imprisonment or a fine. Alternatively, the claim or defence could be struck out and costs orders made against you. Whoever signs the statement of truth, it is vital that full investigations have been carried out before the statement of case is drafted and the statement of truth signed.

If you have any questions about matters raised in this briefing, please feel free to discuss them with the person handling your dispute.

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