

A guide to statutory declarations and how to make them:

A statutory declaration or “statdec” is a sworn statement. In this case, it is a statement relating to the identity of undocumented Convention refugees applying for permanent residence status in Canada. The Aden agreement of December 2000 requires TWO sworn declarations for each applicant who doesn't have identity documents. One from the applicant herself or himself – the client. The second EITHER from someone who knew the applicant before coming to Canada OR from a credible organization that can swear to the applicant's identity.

1. The statutory declaration forms are a guide. If you want to make a statutory declaration another way, that is fine, but make sure that you include all the information required in the Aden judgement (see that file).
2. The statutory declarations have to be signed by a person who is legally authorised to administer an oath. e.g. a lawyer, judge, notary public or legal clinic. As well, the statutory declarations can be signed by a credible organization as stipulated in the Aden agreement. Your lawyer or a legal clinic can help you do your statutory declarations. Bring them a copy of the Aden agreement.
3. Don't try to make this look formal and legal. Tell your story in simple language. If you need more room, attach more paper. The story is the most important part, more important than making the form look proper.
4. These forms and the Aden agreement are available on the Web at www.cpj.ca/getting_landed and at legal clinics.
5. If you need more information, or are willing to tell how this worked for you, contact:
Ahmed Hashi, The Getting Landed Project, getting_landed@hotmail.com
Toronto: 416-979-2443, extension 31 Ottawa: 613-737-5115, extension 556
www.cpj.ca/getting_landed