

Unbundled/limited scope representation is when you and a lawyer agree that the lawyer will handle some parts of your case and you will handle others. This is different from more traditional arrangements between lawyers and clients where a lawyer is hired to provide legal services on all aspects of a case, from start to finish. When you cannot afford to pay for a lawyer to handle your entire case, this kind of representation can be a great way for you to have legal help with your case while keeping costs down. However, it is important to understand that the attorney is not your attorney of record and cannot appear in court with you/for you.

Here are some examples of limited-scope arrangements:

- You can just consult a lawyer and get legal information and advice about your case when you need it.
- You can hire the lawyer to help prepare the forms but file them yourself and represent yourself at the hearings.
- You can hire the lawyer to draft certain documents but file them yourself and represent yourself at the hearing

How this can help you even though you have not retained an attorney:

- Having a lawyer helping you with parts of your case can save you a lot of time and energy because the lawyer can educate you about the process and your specific issues.
- A lawyer, by being more removed from your case than you are, can see things about your case that you cannot. A lawyer can help you focus on the legal issues and on what the court can do for you, and not let yourself be distracted by other issues and emotions.
- A lawyer can identify potential problems or hidden complications early on, so you can avoid making a costly mistake.
- A lawyer can help you with the court processes and procedures, some of which may not be obvious or easy to find out.

However, one drawback to this kind of relationship is that if the other side is represented by counsel, that attorney will be contacting you directly, not the attorney who drafted the document/helped you fill out the forms. If the other side is not represented and the two of you have difficulty communicating, then not having an attorney to act as a go between can make the entire process more difficult and more costly.