

LIMITED LEGAL REPRESENTATION

This booklet is intended for litigants who are not prepared to hire an attorney for full representation, but who need some professional assistance. The attorney and client mutually agree to handle specific and limited services, tailored to the needs and concerns of the client. It is by no means a substitute for traditional legal services, merely an alternative form of representation for you.

Description of Likely Services

Limited representation is usually distributed into three main areas of expertise: (1) advice and counsel, (2) court appearances, and (3) assistance with documents and pleadings. The client and attorney agree upon the scope and extent of the relationship, and the cost of service.

Who is a prime candidate?

- A litigant who has handled his or her case before.
- A person needing limited assistance, but with low to moderate income.
- A person who is “stuck” in the middle of a case and needs limited guidance.
- A person who needs help with a single issue, such as enforcement of an existing court order, a wage assignment, division of real estate, or a pension plan.
- A person who has reached agreement with the other party, or has been through mediation, and needs document preparation.

Who is unlikely to benefit from limited representation?

- Victims of domestic violence.
- Persons involved in highly contested cases with numerous motions and hearings.
- Persons who do not understand what limited representation entails.
- Persons who want someone else to do “it” for them.
- Persons without the ability to understand, prepare or file paperwork.

Adapted from a publication of the Contra Costa County (Cal.) Bar Association