



PROS AND CONS OF LIMITED OR UNBUNDLED LEGAL SERVICES

ADVANTAGES

It costs less when you do most of the work by yourself and bring in a lawyer only when you need one.

It allows you to stay in control. You decide what issues to negotiate and when to discuss them.

You have a great deal of power in negotiating with the other party. You are free to make concessions that make sense to you and not just to someone else.

Because unbundling almost inevitably results in more contact between you and the other party, you can often work out the issues between the two or you without going to court.

If you are dealing with a party who hired a lawyer, unbundling can provide you with critical negotiating advantage. Every time there is a meeting involving the other party's lawyer, every time the other party's lawyer writes a letter or makes a phone call, the other party pays more money than it is costing you, the other party may eventually make concessions to end the fighting.

RISKS

With all of the freedom of unbundling comes the responsibility.

Your attorney can give you important background information and make suggestions, but it is your job to apply it to your case and carry through.

It is up to you to make sure that you file all of your papers with the court on time and make all deadlines.

You are responsible for gathering all of the information that you need.

If you end up going to court, it is especially important that you ask enough questions and understand your attorney's advice. Some judges tend to be impatient with litigants who are not represented if they talk about issues and things that the judge does not need to know or if they ask questions that the judge expects a pro se litigant to know already or if they make speeches about things that may seem important to the litigant, but that will not actually affect the judge's decision.

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