

Limited Scope Representation

Often referred to as “unbundling,” limited scope representation means that you and your attorney agree how to divide up the tasks of handling your case. The attorney may coach, advise, draft, or provide other legal assistance. You pay the attorney for only the parts of the case that they are responsible for. For example, you may gather all financial documents while the attorney may draft court pleadings. The attorney may coach you on how to prepare for mediation or may appear with you at mediation. There are many options.

This brochure answers some basic questions about Limited Scope Representation.



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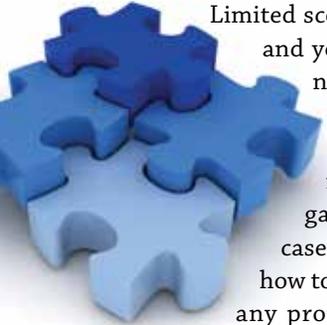
Do you want help with certain parts of your case?

- parenting plans
- discovery
- pleadings
- negotiation
- hearings
- mediation



Limited Scope Representation

What is limited scope representation?



Limited scope representation is where you and your lawyer agree that the attorney will do some parts of the case and you are responsible for the rest. For instance, the attorney may draft a petition and you gather all the documents for the case. The attorney may coach you on how to mediate and be willing to review any proposed agreement. You pay for each part of the case the attorney handles.

What kind of questions should I ask the attorney?

You and your attorney should have a discussion about all aspects of your case. You both need to agree who does what. You may want to discuss: Who sets strategy? Who gathers information? Who drafts documents? Who appears in court? Who negotiates with the other side and tries to settle? Who talks to the other party or their attorney? There are many pieces to any case.

Is limited scope representation appropriate for all cases?

No. You and your attorney determine how complicated your case is and whether you will be able to handle different pieces of your case on your own.

What are the benefits?

You may be able to save money on attorney's fees and retain some control over your case. You can have the attorney focus on things that use the attorney's expertise in an efficient way.

What are the trade-offs?

Attorneys have to go to law school and probably have experience in this field of law. You don't. If you choose to hire

an attorney to perform only part of your case, you are responsible for the outcome of the other parts, even if the attorney coached you. Therefore you must discuss your legal matter completely with your attorney and be sure you are comfortable in handling the case. Sometimes what seems simple is complex, such as introducing evidence to the court.

What happens if I need more assistance from the attorney, new issues arise or I feel like I do not understand what is happening in court?

You should go back to the attorney and ask for more assistance. This attorney is familiar with your case and you might be able to add other pieces or the entire case to your agreement. Again, you pay the attorney for every part of the case that they do. It may be easier and less expensive for the attorney to handle the full case. It may be worth the investment.

Will the courts let me do this?

Court rules allow limited scope representation.

How to find a lawyer that will do limited scope representation?



You can find an attorney that will discuss alternative fee options, including limited scope representation, on the Colorado Bar Association website, cobar.org. Click on "Find a Lawyer." You can search by geographic area, practice area (such as family law or probate), and "alternative fee arrangements". "Alternative fee arrangements" is an option under "advanced search." ("Alternative fees" may include other options, such as flat fee, using credit cards, etc.)

