



LIMITED SCOPE V. TRADITIONAL LEGAL REPRESENTATION

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UNBUNDLING MAKES LEGAL SERVICES AFFORDABLE.

Is there a way to navigate the complexities before and during legal action?

Divorce Proceedings	Civil Litigation	Guardianships?	LGBT issues?
Custody, support?	Causes of Action?	Conservatorships?	Cohabitation?
Maintenance?	Advancing the case?	Vulnerable adult?	Powers of attorney?
Community?	Production?	Duties, Authority?	Business Planning
Paternity?	Depositions? Trial prep.?	Protective Orders?	Entities? Agreements?
Laws? Procedures?	Motions? Defenses?	Investigator?	Citation? Protections?

SUMMARY

THERE IS **NOT** A “ONE SIZE FITS ALL” APPROACH TO THE DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES. SOMETIMES, THE PUBLIC IS WELL-SERVED BY A LIMITED SCOPE OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION. IN FACT, IN SEVERAL AREAS OF STATE COURT ACTION, THERE ARE NOW EVEN RULES PERMITTING LIMITED APPEARANCES BY ATTORNEYS WHO “UNBUNDLE.” THE CONCEPT OF “UNBUNDLED LEGAL SERVICES” PERMITS ENGAGEMENT OF AN ATTORNEY FOR AGREED DISCRETE AND LIMITED TASKS.

AS A RESULT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR ETHICS¹ CODE AND COURT RULES, SOME ATTORNEYS “UNBUNDLE,” INCLUDING OFFERING COMPREHENSIVE MEETINGS WITHOUT REQUIRING FURTHER REPRESENTATION. THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO:

- LEARN ABOUT RELEVANT LAW AND GET UP-FRONT ANALYSIS AND ADVICE;
- CHOOSE WHETHER TO REQUEST LONGER-TERM REPRESENTATION OR NOT; AND
- IF NOT, LIMIT THEIR INVESTMENT TO JUST ONE SUBSTANTIVE MEETING.

SO, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “HIRE” AN ATTORNEY?

With few exceptions, those practicing law or appearing in court settings must be attorneys admitted to practice law by the Arizona Supreme Court. As attorneys, we might concentrate our practices or we might practice multiple areas of substantive law. As to the latter, some of us are prepared for a variety of practice area requests to serve clients, for instance advanced directives, small business, disputes, family law, elder law, probate matters, litigation, contracts, or protective orders.

The same attorney might offer limited scope representation sometimes and at other times, representation from start-to-finish. In all cases, clients and attorneys will have agreed to the scope of representation, or what role is undertaken. For instance, a whole case or matter, or in contrast, unbundling with just a coaching session, or maybe a work-study session to review laws, recommendations, and reasonably foreseeable procedures, risks, and benefits. Unbundling is a valuable tool and serves the public well for those clients who wish to gain a solid understanding and a game plan without long-term or continued representation.

The Law Office of Debbie Weecks is pleased to be able to provide either of Full Scope Legal Services or, when ethically appropriate, limited representation, depending upon the client's situation and preferences.

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The information in this article is educational in nature and not case-specific.
This discussion does not constitute legal advice nor any statement on behalf of any court.

1. 02 November 2014. Also, as an aside, regarding diversity and inclusion, please download <http://www.attorneyatlawmagazine.com/phoenix/lean-principal-bowman/> Weecks, “Lean-In’ Principal Bowman!”, *Attorney-At-Law Magazine*, Phoenix Edition (June 2014).