



What is Limited Scope Representation?

Limited scope representation is an unbundled or “a la carte” legal service. In a typical lawsuit, your attorney will handle all the aspects of litigation including but not limited to: drafting and filing all legal paperwork, attending all hearings, gathering all the evidence and negotiating with the other party or their lawyer. Under full service representation, the client typically gets billed at the attorney’s hourly rate.

Under a limited scope arrangement, the lawyer only handles certain parts of your legal matter and you handle the other parts. For example, you might need a lawyer only to draft the settlement agreement, attend a hearing, or to just give you advise on how to examine your witnesses at trial. This can reduce your legal costs and save you money as you are only paying the lawyer to do certain specific tasks.

Advantages and Disadvantages

The biggest advantage of limited scope representation is the cost savings. You are only paying the attorney for specific tasks that are too difficult for you to handle on your own. You retain control over your case, but still get legal guidance and assistance from a licensed attorney to help you navigate the complicated court procedures. This is preferable to a budget legal document preparation service staffed by individuals who are not authorized to give legal advice.

The disadvantage is that once the lawyer has performed the specific tasks you retained them for, their representation of you is completed as their representation is not ongoing. If you require further assistance you will have to sign a new fee agreement with the lawyer on either a limited scope basis or a full-service basis. Once the lawyer has completed their task, you are responsible for the rest of the work on your case.

Is it right for me?

Whether limited scope representation is right for you depends on the complexity of your case on your comfort level with the court system. Family Law cases are particularly well-suited for limited scope representation. I’ve had many clients retain me on a limited scope just to draft pleadings that comport with Nebraska Law. Many people do not know that this type of legal service is available. If you think this may be the right option for you, or seek additional information, call an attorney and ask about it.