



Powered by Ice Legal, P.A.

Why does my court document say, “Prepared With the Assistance of Counsel”?

Not all judges or attorneys are familiar with the rules regarding “as needed” legal services. If a judge or attorney asks you why your documents say you were assisted by counsel or why your designated email goes to Ice Legal, P.A., you may give or read them this document:

- I am being assisted by LegalYou (a law firm) under a limited-representation agreement in which LegalYou provides advice and assistance to me as a *pro se* litigant outside of court without making a formal appearance as an attorney of record.
- Such limited representation is not only permitted by applicable Bar rules ([Rule 4-1.2 \(c\) R. Regulating Fla. Bar](#)), but is actually encouraged by The Florida Bar and the American Bar Association as one of the key approaches to solving the access to justice crisis.¹
- Limited representation may involve the “ghostwriting” of court documents—a service that the ABA formally endorsed in 2007.² The Florida Bar expressly approves of attorneys assisting *pro se* litigants with the drafting and filing of court documents but requires that the lawyer indicate on the document that it was “**Prepared With Assistance of Counsel.**” ([Comments to Rule 4-1.2 R. Regulating Fla. Bar](#); [Florida Bar Ethics Opinion 79-7](#)).
- I will be proceeding *pro se* in court and will speak for myself at hearings. Opposing counsel may speak directly with me about my case ([Rule 4-4.2\(b\) R. Regulating Fla. Bar](#)).

¹ Ramón A. Abadin, [Filling the Justice Gap with a New Business Model](#), The Florida Bar Journal (November, 2015) (discussing proposals to facilitate the unbundling of legal services rules beyond the 2003 Supreme Court authorization for family law and certain probate matters); [Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice, Subcommittee Final Report to the Commission](#), May 20, 2016 (listing unbundling as an area of focus for Florida’s permanent access to justice commission); [A National Conference on Pro Se Litigation Florida Team Report, Office of the State Courts Administrator](#), Florida Supreme Court January 3, 2000 (stressing the importance of encouraging unbundling).

² *Undisclosed Legal Assistance to Pro Se Litigants*. American Bar Association, Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, ["Formal Opinion 07-446"](#).

PREPARED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL

Legal You. You can do this.

www.legalyou.com • www.icelegal.com