

In Pro Per Legal Assistance

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1. Overview

For simple disputes, business filings, and transactional matters, self-help is a viable option to hiring an attorney. However, non-attorneys face daunting challenges representing themselves in the technical and arcane world of the legal profession. Often, in pro per litigants will need to turn to paralegals or need to consult with an attorney.

One problem with using paralegals in self-help representation is that paralegals are not allowed by law to provide you with legal advice. Paralegals are often only too happy to charge you a fee to provide you with forms, which may not be advisable or in your best interests. Attorneys, on the other hand, are bound by strict codes of ethics and professionalism and cannot simply provide you with forms without certifying that the forms provided are the ones that should be used.

2. Matters Commonly Handled without Attorney Representation

TLS provides low-cost legal assistance to in pro per litigants or person filing documents on their own behalf. TLS can provide assistance with the following matters, among others:

- Patent Applications
- Business registration/corporate and legal filings with the secretary of state
- Small Claims
- Civil Disputes
- Bankruptcy
- Wills and Probate
- Contract Drafting
- Consumer and business disputes
- Legal Research and Investigation

To see if TLS can help you, please see the 'Claims Evaluation' page for instructions on obtaining a quote and see the 'Special Appearance' page for rates should you need TLS to appear on your behalf in Court.

3. Self-Help Law Links

- Findlaw - Offers cases, statutes, and practice guides.
- California Courts - Provides local rules, links to Court websites, California Rules of Courts, and Judicial Council Forms
- Novo Press - Specializes in self-help law materials