

Pros and Cons of Unbundled Services

(Adapted from Lee Borden's Web site at www.divorceinfo.com and Forrest S. Mosten's [Guide to Unbundling Legal Services](#))

Advantages

- It costs less when you do most of the work yourself and bring in a lawyer only when you need one.
- It allows you to stay in control. You decide what issues to negotiate and when to negotiate them.
- You have a great deal of power in negotiating with the other party. You are free to make concessions that make sense to you, not just to someone else.
- Because unbundling almost inevitably results in more contact between you and the other party, you can often work out the issues between the two of you without going to court.
- If you are dealing with a party who has hired a lawyer, unbundling can provide you a critical negotiating advantage. Every time there is a meeting involving the other party's lawyer, every time the other party's lawyer writes a letter, every time the other party's lawyer makes a phone call, the other party pays more money, but you do not. Because the process is costing the other party more money than it is costing you the other party may eventually make concessions to end the fighting.

Risks

- With all the freedom of unbundling comes responsibility.
- Your coach can give you important background information and make suggestions but it is your job to apply it to your case and carry through .
- It is up to you to make sure you file your pleadings on time.
- You are responsible for gathering all the information you need.
- If you end up going to court, it is especially important that you ask enough questions and understand your coach's advice Judges tend to be impatient with litigants who are not represented if they talk about issues the judge does not need to know, ask questions the judge expects lawyers to know already, and make speeches about things that may seem important to them but will not actually affect the judge's decision.