

DOCUMENT REVIEW

Although I always recommend that a person retains an attorney to assist them with their legal issues, the plain and simple truth is that many times, people just cannot afford to hire an attorney. The courts are aware that many people cannot afford to hire an attorney and many cases are heard in the courts where one or more sides are not represented by an attorney.

If you find yourself in this situation, I would strongly suggest that as a minimum you have your documents reviewed by an attorney prior to filing them. There are many items that must be included in the documents which you will file with the court. It is much easier to pay an attorney for an hour or two of their time to make sure that your documents are accurate and complete. You also need to make sure that you ask for all that you are entitled to (or at least be informed before you file as to what you are entitled to). There are things that you will not be entitled to if you don't put them in your initial documents.

I would also strongly recommend that you never finalize your case or file your final documents without first having your final documents reviewed by an attorney. Otherwise, you may be giving up rights that you are rightfully entitled to. For example, if your divorce judgment is signed by the judge without any mention of spousal support, you will be forever barred from asking for spousal support later. A couple might agree to joint custody without really knowing what that means. If you have your documents reviewed, an attorney will advise you of things that you might not have thought of.

Simply put, it is much easier to hire an attorney to make sure things are right to start with than to have to hire an attorney to fix the things that weren't done right.

If you need your legal documents reviewed, please do not hesitate to contact our firm at 503.693.6641.