



# LAW OFFICE OF VIRGINIA SUDBURY

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The Law Office of Virginia Sudbury provides “unbundled” legal services, in addition to the full package of traditionally offered legal services. The client *and* lawyer select the services the office will provide. We focus in the areas of family and elder law.

## *What are “unbundled” legal services?*

“Unbundled legal services,” or “limited scope legal assistance” means that our office can assist clients with only those legal services that they want. This limits the expenses of representation. We offer a designated service or services, rather than the full package of traditionally offered services. Through these limited-service relationships, the client retains authority to make the major decisions in the matter.

The lawyer who provides this assistance creates an attorney-client relationship with the client she helps. In this legal relationship, the client is in charge of selecting one or several discrete lawyering tasks contained within the full-service package.

## *Why are unbundled legal services needed?*

- **Cost**

It is the cost of *full-service* representation in litigation that is prohibitive for many clients. Many *pro se* (self-represented) litigants have enough disposable income to pay for the *limited* representation they need. However, the majority of lawyers do not offer these potential clients the services they need *and* can afford. Instead, they present them with the traditional all (full-service) or nothing (wholly self-represented) “choice.”

Clients frequently pay lawyers an amount sufficient to obtain the entire limited representation they need, but that amount is used as a deposit for full-service legal representation. When the client cannot pay a later installment of the full-service fee, the lawyer discontinues the legal work. This leaves the client, lawyer, and court frustrated.

- **Empowerment**

Unbundled legal services empower clients. They bring a higher level of client personal investment and ownership in outcomes, and result in improved compliance with agreements and Orders. They help to “de-mystify” the law and the daunting legal system.

- **Coordinated Solutions**

Other factors fueling demand for limited scope assistance include the increase in consumerism, the self-help ethic (reinforced by forms available on OCAP and the Internet), and disaffection with the excesses of the traditional adversarial legal system.

Unbundling or limited representation can also help courts to manage their dockets more efficiently and fairly. It can increase the quality of pleadings, identify and focus the issues in cases, and lead to outcomes that are more fair and just.