

3.00 | THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE REPRESENTING YOURSELF

Representing yourself carries responsibility and risk. Consider them carefully. Here are some:

- If you miss a deadline, submit a document that is false, make a false statement, disregard a court order, refuse to follow a court rule, or ask for something to which you know you are not entitled, you may lose on that ground alone and the court may impose a fine against you or hold you in contempt.
- Lying in a court document is perjury and is a crime punishable by imprisonment.
- Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure prohibits anyone from bringing a claim that is clearly frivolous or meant only to harass someone. If the court determines that you have brought a claim for an improper or unnecessary purpose, the court may impose a sanction against you, including ordering you to pay the other side's attorney's fee.
- If you are not a licensed lawyer, you may represent only yourself. Representing anyone but yourself is illegal.
- If you lose your action, you likely will have to pay some costs that the winning party incurred during the lawsuit. Costs can be expensive.

