

Superintendence Rule 75

Local Rules

RULE 75.1: Self-Representation

This Rule applies to all persons who represent themselves in any probate matter in our Court without an attorney.

A. Right to Self-Represent

All persons desiring to represent themselves in any probate proceeding are permitted to do so unless otherwise instructed by the Court.

B. Application of Rules

In order to assure the fair and impartial administration of justice, the Court will hold self-represented persons to the same standards as apply to attorneys and persons represented by attorneys in probate proceedings. All applicable statutes, rules, regulations and policies apply equally to self-represented persons and to persons represented by attorneys.

C. Acknowledgement

All self-represented persons must sign and file a self-representation acknowledgement verifying that they understand their rights and responsibilities when engaging in a probate proceeding without legal representation. In particular, but without limitation, the acknowledgement will confirm the self-represented person's understanding that the Court and its deputy clerks are not permitted to provide any legal advice to any person under any circumstances. Self-represented persons must file the acknowledgement form with the initial filings.

D. Later representation

Self-represented persons may retain an attorney to represent them at any point during a probate proceeding. Upon receiving a notice of appearance from the

attorney, the Court will grant accommodations that are reasonably necessary to enable the attorney to become familiar with the case, to the extent that the accommodations do not prejudice the rights of any other person or entity with an interest in the proceeding.