



Court Policy Regarding “Pro Se” Litigants (Applicants without a Lawyer)

1. People who represent themselves in court are called “pro se” or “self-represented” litigants. You are not required to have a lawyer to file papers or to participate in a case. You have a right to represent yourself. **However, a pro se may not represent others. Under Texas law, only a licensed attorney may represent the interests of third-party individuals or entities, including guardianship wards and probate estates.** See *In re: Guetersloh*, 326 S.W.3d 737 (Tex. App.–Amarillo, 2010) and *Steele v. McDonald*, 202 S.W.3d 926 (Tex. App.–Waco, 2006), and the authorities cited. Therefore, individuals applying for letters testamentary, letters of administration, determinations of heirship, and guardianships of the person or estate must be represented by a licensed attorney. The only time a pro se applicant may proceed in court is when truly representing **only** him or herself.

2. Once you have been appointed by the Court you will have continuing duties that may require the assistance of your attorney.

3. If you are appointed and qualified as Guardian of the Person only, you do not have to use an attorney to fill out your annual report of condition and well-being and file it with the clerk.

4. If you are appointed as Guardian of the Estate or as an Administrator you must have legal representation involved in your annual accountings and other legal documents necessary during the administration of the estate.