

PRO SE SELF HELP REPRESENTATION NOTICE

AS YOU ARE REPRESENTING YOURSELF, YOU ARE CALLED, IN LEGAL TERMS, A PRO SE LITIGANT, WHEN YOU ARE ACTING PRO SE, THE FOLLOWING LAW APPLIES TO YOU.

Florida Statutes section 454.18 provides in pertinent part:

Any person, whether an attorney or not, . . . may conduct his own cause in any Court of this state . . . subject to the lawful rules and discipline of such Court.

A PARTY'S SELF REPRESENTATION DOES NOT RELIEVE THE PARTY OF THE OBLIGATION TO COMPLY WITH ANY APPROPRIATE RULES OF THE COURT AND RULES OF PROCEDURE. Carr v. Grace, 321 So.2d 618, (Fla. 3d DCA 1975).

A PRO SE LITIGANT IS NOT TREATED DIFFERENTLY THAN A LITIGANT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL. The Third district Court of Appeal in Kohn v. City of Miami Beach, 611 So. 2d 538, 539 (Fla. 3d DCA 1991) state, "We conclude that it is a mistake to hold a pro se litigant to a lesser standard than a reasonably competent attorney." The Court went on to say at 540:

Application of any lesser standard can only foment litigation by encouraging a litigant to act pro se and, when his seeming ability to plead a cause of action fails, to then engage an attorney to start again. . . . Compassion for a pro se litigant and justice under the law are entirely different concepts that should not be confused.

The Kohn Court went on to note in footnote 1 that , "Courts around the country have likewise recognized that once a party chooses to represent himself, he cannot expect favored treatment from the Court."