

Full Scope Representation

Full scope representation for a fee will not end until the client chooses to end the representation or the case ends.

Pro Bono

“Pro bono” is a term to describe legal assistance from a lawyer to a people who cannot otherwise afford to pay the regular fee. Montana Legal Services Association or a local pro bono program will screen for financial eligibility to receive these services. You may also try to find your own pro bono lawyer by requesting that a lawyer represent you without charging a fee.

Contact a Self Help Law Center or Montana Legal Services.

Reduced Fee

A lawyer may be willing to represent you at a reduced fee. Often called “modest means,” a lawyers may charge you less based on your financial situation. Some lawyers set up a “sliding scale” to determine, based on your income, what fee you will be charged. The State Bar Modest Means Program is a great way to find a modest means lawyer.

Call Montana Legal Services Association or See Lawyer Referral Service for lawyers that provide “reduced fee” representation.

Standard Fee

The three most commons types of fee arrangements are: hourly billing, contingent fee (lawyer is not paid directly by client until after the case is successful), or flat flee. Lawyer fees are based on the area of law and experience and vary greatly. Most lawyers in Montana charge between \$100 and \$250 dollars per hour. A lawyer may charge an amount of money up front, called a “retainer.” **Contact the State Bar Lawyer Referral Service to find a lawyer.**

Limited Scope Representation

A lawyer assists with a specific task or tasks including legal advice, document preparation or review, limited court appearances, or another part of your case. The client and lawyer agree upon and clearly define specific tasks to be performed by the lawyer and by the client.

If you plan to handle most of your case on your own but need assistance only for legal advice, drafting, your court appearance, or another part of your case, pro bono limited scope representation may be right for you. Montana Legal Services Association or a local pro bono program will screen you for financial eligibility to receive these services. You may also find a lawyer willing to help you on a limited scope basis for no fee.

Contact a Self Help Law Center or Montana Legal Services.

Paying for only a certain amount of services may be an affordable way to hire a lawyer. Lawyers may already have a method to determine your eligibility for a reduced fee. Even if the hourly fee is the same, the overall cost may be less because you will handle some of your legal case on your own. The State Bar Modest Means Program is a great way to find a modest means lawyer.

Call Montana Legal Services Association or See Lawyer Referral Service for lawyers that provide “reduced fee” representation.

Lawyers may be willing to charge a standard hourly fee or flat fee for providing only a portion of legal services. You and the lawyer can have a binding written agreement that clearly outlines the legal services you will receive at a certain cost. Even if the hourly fee is standard, the overall cost to you may be less because you will handle the rest of your legal case on your own. **Contact the State Bar Lawyer Referral Service to find a lawyer.**

State Bar of Montana

The lawyer referral and Information Service provides referrals to lawyers and information regarding other legal resources
(406) 449-6577
www.montanabar.org

Court Help Program Self Help Law Centers

Walk-in legal information services for self represented litigants
www.courts.mt.gov/selfhelp
Great Falls 1 (406) 205-0347
Bozeman 1 (406) 582-2158
Billings 1 (406) 869-353
Kalispell 1 (406) 758-2496
Missoula 1 (406) 258-3428
Helena 1 (406) 444-9300
Butte 1 (406) 497-6417

Montana Legal Services Association

Direct civil pro bono representation and lawyer referrals based on your financial status, merits of your case, and location.
1 (800) 666-6899
www.montanalawhelp.org

