

HOW TO WORK WITH PRO SE LITIGANTS

Judge George Odom Jr.

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COMPARE/CONTRASTS THE RULES OF ETHICS & JUDICIAL CANON 3

RULE 4-4.3 DEALING WITH UNREPRESENTED
PERSONS

[https://www-
media.floridabar.org/uploads/2021/04/Ch-4-
2021_10-APR-RRTFB-4-15-2021.pdf](https://www-media.floridabar.org/uploads/2021/04/Ch-4-2021_10-APR-RRTFB-4-15-2021.pdf)

A Judge Shall Perform the Duties of Judicial
Office Impartially and Diligently

[https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Opinion
s/Judicial-Ethics-Advisory-Committee/Code-of-
Judicial-Conduct/Canon-3](https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Opinions/Judicial-Ethics-Advisory-Committee/Code-of-Judicial-Conduct/Canon-3)

LAWYERS: DEALING WITH PRO SE LITIGANTS

1. Make your role and the scope of your duties clear with pro se litigants.
2. Communicate consistently and constantly with pro se litigants.
3. Be professional at all times. Keep in mind the Rules of Professional Conduct.
4. Attempt to resolve issues with pro se litigants before seeking the court's help.
5. Don't discredit the actions or responses of a pro se litigant.
6. Understand the risk of dealing with a pro se litigant.

THE ROLE OF THE JUDGE IN PRO SE LITIGATION

[The Role of The Judge in Pro Se Litigation](#)

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THE ROLE OF THE JUDGE IN PRO SE LITIGATION

1. A judge shall accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding, or that person's lawyer, the right to be heard according to law. Lawyer: What does that mean for my case Judge?
2. Neither side should appear to be receiving a clear advantage. Lawyer: Why won't the court sustain my objection I know that was irrelevant!
3. Why does it feel like the court is giving great latitude to the pro se litigant?
4. What is Tresorit? Google Drive, Drop Box, Box, Amazon, Sugar Sync, Microsoft One Drive, Hightail and Media Fire.

QUESTIONS?



RESOURCES

1. <https://www.floridabar.org/rules/rtrfb/>
2. <https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Opinions/Judicial-Ethics-Advisory-Committee/Code-of-Judicial-Conduct/Canon-3>
3. <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/pretrial-practice-discovery/practice/2020/proper-approach-to-pro-se-litigants/>
4. <https://www.floridabar.org/prof/presources/presources001/>
5. <https://www.ncsc.org/services-and-experts/areas-of-expertise/court-statistics>
6. <https://www.floridabar.org/the-florida-bar-news/bars-e-etiquette-handbook-updatgd-available-for-download/>
7. http://www.17th.flcourts.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Local_Rule_10A.pdf
8. <http://www.17th.flcourts.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-19-UFC.pdf>