

# Representing Yourself (pro se)

Defendants in municipal court have the right to hire a lawyer, but many defendants accused of fine-only offenses appear in court pro se (pro se means “for oneself”). Please be advised that having a lawyer for your trial is recommended, as legal issues are complex and there may be outcomes you are not aware of.

**Can I have someone else represent me (for example, my parent)?**

No. There is no right to have anyone represent you except you or a lawyer, even if you are a minor. Allowing a non-lawyer to act as a lawyer for anyone other than himself or herself permits the unauthorized practice of law.