

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE: Resolving Disputes Respectfully

1. What is Collaborative Process?

A process in which a divorcing couple, together with trained professionals, work as a team to resolve disputes respectfully, without going to court.

2. How does the Collaborative Process work?

By creating a safe environment for difficult conversations; by considering each person's needs in a series of joint team meetings; by developing the information to make good decisions with the help of specialists; by using a creative respectful approach to reaching a mutually acceptable agreement

3. What distinguishes Collaborative Practice from other methods for divorce?

- ! The protection and guidance of your own attorney through the entire process
- ! A customized team of professionals addressing emotional, financial and legal issues
- ! A private, less adversarial (more cooperative) process which will create the opportunity for you to:
 - make well-informed and appropriate decisions for you and your family;
 - make satisfactory and long-lasting solutions which result in less conflict in the future;
 - protect your children from the hostility and intrusion of the court process,
 - and allow you to truly address their needs.

4. What are the key benefits of Collaborative Practice?

- ! Mutually created resolutions
- ! Mutually satisfying resolutions
- ! Durable agreements
- ! New tools for effective problem-solving in the future, such as for co-parenting
- ! Provide other professional resources to smooth transitions
- ! Provide a safe environment for difficult conversations

Value to clients

- ! Peace of mind, reduced anxiety
- ! Security and privacy
- ! Reduced conflict in the future
- ! More control of the outcome
- ! Allows for more creativity and tailored solutions than imposed formulas do

Overarching value

- ! Helping good people to be and do their best in a difficult time