



A BESPOKE SERVICE AND OUTCOME

Family Collaborative Practice encourages people to use the best in themselves to separate without the inherent conflict found in the Court Process, achieving fair settlements that work.

You Can:

- § **keep control** of the process yourself, **without going to Court**;
- § **work** with your Partner and the Collaborative Lawyers **as a team to resolve issues** without going to court;
- § give priority to the things that are important to you, and **put the children first**;
- § work to **your own agenda and timing** agreed with your Partner;
- § work together as a team to solve problems in an atmosphere of **dignity and respect**, building and maintaining **communication with your Partner**;
- § secure **support, legal advice** and guidance from your Collaborative Lawyer throughout;
- § **work with a Family Consultant** to understand, overcome and **change the relationship dynamic** with your Partner. To help you stop “**acting out**” the old dynamic in the **Collaborative Process**, which will jeopardise your ability to reach a fair solution and improve communication now and in the future.

WHAT IS COLLABORATIVE FAMILY PRACTICE?

The Ethos

- Discussions in good faith;
- Treating each other with respect, retaining dignity and self worth;
- Finding solutions for the future, not punishing your Partner or yourself with past issues and actions;
- Using a Family Consultant to provide emotional support, if needed, working through personal or marital issues with the Family Consultant and not in the Collaborative Process;
- The “Best Person” you can be or the “Highest Goals Individual” engages in the Collaborative Process;
- No litigation or threat of litigation;
- Open disclosure;
- Four way commitment to the process;
- Equal responsibility for input and resolution;
- If the process breaks down, new lawyers must be engaged for litigation.

The Process

- No correspondence, save administrative requirements;
- Pre Meetings: client/solicitor and solicitor/solicitor;
- Four Way Meetings, with both Partners and both solicitors present;

- Debrief and Preparation Meetings: client/solicitor and solicitor/solicitor;
- Minutes prepared and circulated after each Four Way Meeting;
- Agenda set by Collaborative Lawyers for First Four Way and thereafter agreed by all at the end of each Four Way Meeting.

Administration

- Payment for the Collaborative Process, funds made available for both Partners;
- No mobiles, to help ensure full engagement in Four Way Meetings;
- Schedule of Meetings, maximum length, frequency and location;
- Agreement embodied in Separation Agreement or Consent Order once the process has been discussed and agreed.

Aim

To achieve a fair, negotiated agreement on all issues that both Partners can live with, providing for the entire family, whilst maintaining relationships with parental support of the children, without wasting goodwill, trust, time and money on litigation.

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