

COLLABORATIVE SEPARATION AND DIVORCE

WHAT IS COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW?

Collaborative family law is a process where everyone agrees to work together to create acceptable solutions that work for both parties without going to court. There are some basic differences between the collaborative approach and the traditional approach. In the collaborative approach:

- Both parties agree to stay out of court
- The emphasis is on creating solutions that address the values and goals of both parties and their children
- The objective is to reach an efficient, fair, and comprehensive settlement of all issues and set up a structure and climate to resolve issues that may arise in the future
- The collaborative process allows for the involvement of a team of helping professionals to help both parties arrive at a settlement that protects their dignity, integrity, and is in the best long term interest of all family members
- These helping professionals can include: financial planners, divorce counselors, and child specialists

Clients are invited to consider how they want to resolve matters and how they might best go about creating positive solutions for themselves, their children, and their families. This can bring about a completely different outcome from the traditional adversarial

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COLLABORATIVE LAW?

All parties, including children, benefit from the collaborative process:

- The atmosphere is completely different. It is collaborative or working together toward solutions, as opposed to an adversarial approach where one party is “the winner” or “the loser”
- Your feelings and values are honored and respected
- There is usually less animosity in this process and therefore can be much easier on the children and adults
- The process is relatively fast and efficient, and therefore less costly
- It can be far less stressful and anxiety producing
- You don’t have to go to court

WHO ARE THE LAWYERS?

They are caring men and women who want to help their clients in a “value based” way. They believe that the collaborative law process respects all participants, creates positive solutions, and excludes the courtroom.

WHO ARE THE HELPING PROFESSIONALS?

They are psychologists, counselors, financial advisors, and others who work as a team with the Collaborative Family Law lawyers to resolve disputes.

HOW DOES THE COLLABORATIVE PROCESS DIFFER FROM STRAIGHT MEDIATION?

Most of the lawyers in this group are highly skilled and trained mediators. Mediation still holds the threat of court action over the participants, while the collaborative process involves the commitment to create a solution without going to court. The collaborative process also differs from mediation in that it allows for the involvement of other professionals in helping both clients reach an agreement that works not only to resolve current issues but sets a foundation to resolve future issues in a constructive manner.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Phone: (250) 704-2600

Website: www.collaborativefamilylawgroup.com

For further information about collaborative separation and divorce check out these websites:

- www.collaborativedivorcebc.org
- www.collaborativelaw.ca
- www.collaborativelawcentre.com
- www.collabsask.com
- www.collaborativefamilylawassociation.com