

## Guide to Collaborative Practice for Spouses/Partners

**Have you thought about collaborative as a process for solving issues arising out of the breakdown of your relationship and why choose it over going to court?**

Collaborative Practice can be one way of achieving a more direct and efficient resolution that you are part of. From the start, it focuses on problem solving, not blaming or endlessly airing grievances.

Full disclosure and open communications help to assure all your issues are discussed in a timely manner. You are also freed from being beholden to the court calendar. Because your final settlement is reached out of court, you are not kept waiting for multiple court appearances or waiting to get on a crowded schedule which happens in conventional divorce litigation. You can work through your divorce at the pace that best suits you and your family's needs.

Divorce and termination of domestic partnerships are an ending and a beginning all wrapped up into one process. Collaborative Practice helps you anticipate you and your family's best interests in moving forward, and include your needs in the discussions. When you have children affected, Collaborative Practice makes their future the number one priority. As a more respectful, dignified process, Collaborative Practice helps you and your family make a smoother transition to the next stage of your lives, maintaining relationships and lessening trauma and stress. Individuals and their children often find they heal more quickly and with fewer lasting effects.