

let's talk.

No Court.

Less Conflict.

Quicker
Solution.

Less Cost.

Fairer
Outcome.

“ Collaborative Law has been very helpful in achieving a solution that eliminates what I can imagine, in other circumstances, results in hurtful, meaningless dialogue... My lawyer at all times was fully supportive and sympathetic... Huge thanks again (and to my husband's lawyer also) - always courteous and considerate ”

For further details
and contact information,
please refer to
the enclosed insert

COLLABORATIVE
FAMILY LAW

let's talk.



What Is Collaborative Law?

Separation is never easy. The stress generated by the process can push a couple even further apart than they are already. It can leave them feeling damaged by the process itself and unable to communicate. Where children are involved, this can cause problems for the whole family for many years to come.

Experience shows that the way separation is dealt with can make a huge difference to how quickly and fairly issues are resolved and how well a couple copes after the separation on a personal level and in managing their ongoing family relationships.

Collaborative Law is a new approach which offers a better way of dealing with separation. It aims to avoid drawn-out legal disputes and to give the couple a way of working out a solution together which suits their circumstances and those of their family. It allows the separation to be resolved more quickly, less expensively and, above all, less painfully. It aims to allow people to talk.

The main difference between Collaborative Law and other approaches is that all negotiations take place at meetings between the couple and their solicitors. The solicitors have a special role to play. Their job, in addition to supporting and advising their own client is to help the couple find a solution to their particular situation.

Collaborative lawyers believe that even the most difficult cases can be resolved if those involved are prepared to recognise and understand the issues which affect the other party. Above all they recognise that a good settlement is one in which both parties feel that, although they may have had to compromise, they have been treated fairly.

Collaborative Law is suitable for any couple involved in separation whether married or in Civil Partnership or in cohabitation.

How Does It Work?

Each solicitor first has a meeting with their client to gather information. The next stage is a meeting between the two solicitors to discuss each side's needs and aspirations. This is followed by a four way meeting of both clients and solicitors. Subsequent meetings as necessary are held to resolve the issues of conflict. Some situations can be very complex, but the collaborative law process should still resolve these more quickly and in a more moderate way than conventional methods.

Collaborative Law solicitors are highly experienced family solicitors who have undergone training in this new process and who value this approach as a means of helping clients make a major life transition.

- **In collaborative law, everyone participates in an open, honest creative effort to meet the legitimate needs of both parties**
- **The couple and their solicitors sign a contract agreeing amongst other things to disclose all information voluntarily and not to go to Court**
- **Accountants, financial advisors and other professionals willing to work collaboratively are used jointly if required**

Why Collaboration?

Divorce, however painful, is often the only way to resolve a partnership that is not working. Collaborative Law allows both parties and their respective solicitors to work together to find solutions to all the issues, which may involve property, assets and children, in a way that minimises disruption and argument. A mutually achieved conclusion can have less detrimental effects on children, the extended family and the common circle of friends.

- **A collaborative resolution of issues is more likely to protect children and the extended family from the trauma of dispute**
- **It gives more control to both parties and avoids the airing of personal life details in the courts**
- **The successful Collaborative process does not allow any case to go to court**
- **Settlement is achieved away from public scrutiny**