

Advantages of the Collaborative Process

- *LETS YOU CONTROL YOUR DESTINY*
- *LESS EXPENSIVE*
- *LESS TRAUMATIC*
- *REDUCES HOSTILITY*
- *IMPROVES COMMUNICATION*
- *IMPROVES PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIPS*

How to begin the Collaborative Process

1. Select a collaborative attorney from the list.
2. Meet with your collaborative attorney.
3. Meet together with your spouse and both collaborative attorneys to sign the collaborative contract and Principles & Guidelines.
4. Work together to select other collaborative professionals.

What is Collaborative Practice?

- A process where both spouses and their attorneys promise to be fair to each other without the “threat of going to court.” **YOU**, not the court, decide your future.
- The collaborative process requires everyone to deal with each other honestly, cooperatively, professionally, and with integrity in working toward the future well-being of your family.
- The collaborative process uses mental health and finance professionals as part of a team.
- The collaborative process uses informal meetings with the spouses, their attorneys and other team members to settle all issues.
- The Collaborative Process maximizes settlement options.
- The Collaborative Process focuses on the needs and interests of *both* you and your children.
- The Collaborative Process helps you reach an agreement where all your important needs and interests have been handled.

Collaborative Process or Litigation?

1. Open Exchange of Information

All participants agree to an open, honest exchange of accurate information and necessary documents. Neither spouse takes advantage of the miscalculations or inadvertent mistakes of others, but instead identifies and corrects them.

2. Custody

Both parties agree not to involve their children in disputes.

3. Team Members

The spouses jointly employ the services of an accountant, appraiser, mental health professional, or other consultant whose services may be helpful, instead of each hiring competitive and expensive “hired guns.”

4. Negotiations

The spouses acknowledge each other’s needs and work together creatively for their mutual good.

5. Attorney’s Role

The attorneys lead the overall process and insure that legal requirements are met. Your attorney cannot “go to court” to resolve your case, and must withdraw from participation if the client abandons the collaborative process or refuses to follow collaborative guidelines.

Collaborative family law is an innovative approach to restructuring your family during divorce which focuses on the needs of your family and allows you and your partner to be in charge of the decisions affecting the rest of your lives, while keeping your personal and financial dignity intact.

Central
Valley
Collaborative
Law
Affiliates

www.collaborativelawyers.org



COLLABORATIVE
PRACTICE

Resolving Disputes Respectfully

An Alternative To
Traditional Litigation-
Based Divorce

Divorce With Dignity

“Do not cut what can be
untied.”

Membership in the **Central Valley Collaborative Law Affiliates** is limited to trained independent attorneys with substantial experience in family law, specific training in collaborative negotiation, and who are members in good standing with the State Bar of California.

Additional information concerning Collaborative Process including the roster of participating local collaborative attorneys may be found at the **CVCLA** website www.collaborativelawyers.org

AND

CP California

www.cpcal.com

International Academy of Collaborative
Professionals (IACP)

www.collaborativepractice.com

*It's Sad, But
Good People*



Don't Always Stay Together

**DO YOU WANT:
TO AVOID COURT?
A BETTER WAY TO DIVORCE?**

**COLLABORATIVE
PRACTICE
IS YOUR ANSWER**

Central
Valley
Collaborative
Law
Affiliates

www.collaborativelawyers.org