

Advantages of Collaborative Divorce

- You and your spouse will control all of your decisions.
- No one else, a lawyer, custody evaluator or judge, will tell you what to do.
- You will conserve your emotional and financial resources.
- You will use your time and energy most effectively.
- You will likely have a better co-parenting relationship in the future.
- You will have a professional team with unique professional knowledge and skills. Because your divorce has legal, emotional, financial and parenting problems to solve, your professional team is a resource that can help you to most effectively navigate each of these areas.

Benefits of each member of the professional team:

1. Your Divorce Counselor is a licensed mental health professional with specialized training in Collaborative Divorce. Each of you will select your own Divorce Counselor, who will help you:

- Improve your communication and listening skills.
- Develop skills to negotiate.
- Develop problem-solving skills.
- Manage your feelings.
- Create and follow through with your parenting goals.
- Create a plan suitable for you and your children.

You will be able to meet with your Divorce Counselor as often as you need. Your Divorce Counselor will help you prepare for your meetings with your spouse and with other members of your Collaborative Divorce Team.

2. Your Child Specialist is also a licensed mental health professional with specialized training in Collaborative Divorce to help your children understand and deal with divorce. Your Child Specialist will:

- Provide a safe place for your children to be heard.
- Listen to your children and voice their needs and concerns.
- Help you understand what is happening to your children.
- Provide you with the information you need to make important parenting decisions.

Your Child Specialist will talk with you and your children about the divorce. Your Child Specialist will meet with you, the other parent and your Divorce Counselors to share important information you need to create your Parenting Plan.

3. Your Collaborative Lawyer is trained to work in a non-adversarial way with you as part of your Collaborative Team. Each of you will have your own Collaborative Lawyer who will:

- Listen to you and be on your side.
- Support and guide you during your Collaborative Divorce.
- Offer you legal advice about your rights and obligations.
- Help you make informed decisions.
- Help you reach and complete your settlement.

Your Collaborative Lawyer will help you prepare for and understand your Collaborative Divorce. During a series of meetings you will find solutions that work for you and your family.

4. Your Financial Specialist is a qualified accountant trained in Collaborative Divorce. Your Financial Specialist is neutral, and helps both of you to:

- Understand your current financial situation.
- Collect and organize the financial information you need.
- Understand your financial choices.
- Understand the impact of your decisions for now and the future.

Your Financial Specialist will help you understand all of this information so you can make the best decision possible for your financial future.

But won't this cost more to have all of these people working with us?

In our experience, it is generally more cost effective to have the right trained professional working with you on the right problem. You will be much more effective with your time and energy and therefore your dollar by working with the professional best trained for each problem you need to solve.

Furthermore, in our experience, all of these professionals are typically involved in a divorce case, or in unraveling the damage for years to come. It is wiser to have their intervention up front, and avoid substantial cost and heartache.

Adapted from the website of Collaborative Divorce Team Trainings
www.collaborativedivorce.com