

What clients say about Collaborative Practice:

"I was pleased with the process and will recommend it to anyone I know who is about to embark on separation or divorce."

"It was very emotional but also very empowering for me to negotiate the settlement that was fair for both parties."

"It was a positive process for me. I actually found the self-confidence to stand up and express my own needs."

"I was pleased that we were able to negotiate what felt fair to both of us."

"You listened well to me and understood my needs. You handled things in a thorough and gentle manner. I felt I got every penny's worth."

"I am really glad we chose this process. For our family and for each other, it allowed sustainable amicability."

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This leaflet is provided for your general information only and does not seek to set out the legislation in this area in detail. If you have any queries or wish to discuss specific circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Mediators who will be happy to assist.

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Collaborative Practice

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What is Collaborative Practice?

Collaborative practice is a modern approach to resolving family problems. For example, if you are threatened with divorce proceedings or thinking of starting them yourself you will no doubt be feeling apprehensive. You will be asking yourself whether you will be able to keep control of the process in any way and whether you can hope to maintain an ongoing relationship with your former partner particularly if there are children involved. If the matter goes to Court you will be faced with the uncertainties of the Court system.

You now have an option to minimise all these worries by joining with one of our trained Collaborative Lawyers together with your partner and his/her Collaborative Lawyer.

So how does it work?

All participants (including the lawyers) will be asked to sign an agreement which precludes either party from taking the dispute to Court. If this agreement is broken, the parties have to start again with different lawyers so there is a strong incentive to make the process work.



Once the agreement has been signed by all, both parties can work with their legal advisors to gather the necessary information required to enable four way discussions to take place around the table. The lawyers involved will only make contact to discuss preparations for the meeting and the issues that need to be discussed. They do not exchange correspondence. The objective is for all the participants to work together openly to find the solutions that best suit all concerned.

Other professionals can be included at the meetings if their expertise is needed. For example an accountant may be able to discuss his/her valuation of a business and the alternative ways of structuring a buy out of one party's interest in it. The benefit here is that all involved receive the same information at the same time.

The key factor of this method is that you and your partner remain in control of your own destiny and do not face solutions being imposed upon you by a stranger in a process which itself is distracting and daunting.

What are the costs and how long does it take?

Our experience has been that many separating couples find that they can simply apportion their joint assets by joint discussion with the help of supportive legal advice in a non- confrontational way. The speed of the process will depend on the complexity of the issues involved and the parties ability to provide the necessary disclosure.

You decide the pace and remain in control of the process. You also stand a very good chance of maintaining a relationship with a former partner that might otherwise be damaged by the adversarial Court system. This is particularly important where children are concerned.

Full details of our costs will be provided together with an estimate of the likely overall costs at the outset.

The first step ...

Booking an appointment is the first step towards an amicable separation. Please contact us to arrange an appointment.

Our lawyers are experienced collaborative law practitioners