

# Resolving disputes respectfully, Collaborative Law.

The end of your marriage is traumatic enough, so it is a sad prospect to think that you may have to fight a bitter battle during your divorce. Collaborative Law offers an alternative. You, your partner and each counsel commit in writing to make good faith efforts to settle your case and refrain from going to court until a final agreement is reached. With specially trained professionals, the focus is on creative and cooperative problem solving rather than hostility and vengeance.



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The process includes a series of four-way meetings designed to allow for open and honest, responsible and respectful negotiation. Collaborative Law provides for an atmosphere of cooperation, instead of the traditional adversarial model, making it easier for you to retain an amicable relationship even after your case is resolved. This is especially important in situations where children or other family members are involved.

Collaborative Law is less costly both financially and emotionally, and it

takes less time than litigation. Unlike litigation (where the Court controls the process and outcome,) Collaborative Law gives you and your spouse control. In family law where significant issues regarding children, preservation of family relationships, finances, protection of assets, or other matters may be of vital importance, Collaborative Law offers you the ability to create your own solutions to your particular family law problems. It is the mature, sensible way to divorce.

**Constructive** - builds upon areas of agreement. The problem-solving approach keeps your negotiations focused and positive.

**Considerate** - fosters respect and compassion rather than hostility.

**Mutual** - together with your spouse and counsel, you will shape a mutually respectful and compassionate divorce agreement.

To determine if the collaborative divorce process is right for you, simply consider if these factors are important...

- Maintaining an atmosphere of respect, even in the presence of disagreements
- Prioritizing the needs of your children
- Listening objectively to your spouse's needs, while fully expecting equal consideration
- Working creatively and cooperatively to resolve issues
- Seeing beyond the frustration and pain of the present moment to plan for the future
- Behaving in an ethical manner toward your spouse
- Keeping control of your own divorce process

If so, non-adversarial Collaborative Law may be a good process for you to resolve the end of your marriage. The emphasis is on respect and consideration to preserve self esteem and dignity.

*Divorce and financial coaches, mental health experts and child specialists are also available throughout the process.*

Bacon & Wilson - big enough to offer specialists -  
small enough for personal attention.



Michael J. Grilli  
*Your Personal Collaborative Law Specialist.*

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