

The Collaborative Team

The team makes a commitment to help spouses achieve a peaceful resolution to their divorce and to avoid the stress, expense, conflict and the unpredictability associated with traditional court litigation.

The Collaborative Lawyer

An attorney who has been collaboratively trained or has successfully completed a collaborative divorce case. Each party retains their own collaborative lawyer to advise and educate them:

- on all family law issues that need to be addressed in their divorce such as Shared Parental Responsibility, Time-sharing, Equitable Distribution, Alimony and Child Support,
- on the terms to include in the legally binding marital settlement agreement which will be filed with the court and dictate all the terms of the final divorce, and
- draft and file the petition, the final judgment and all documents necessary to obtain a divorce under Florida Law.

The Neutral Facilitator

A licensed mental health professional trained in the collaborative process to help the spouses:

- identify their individual goals and interests and manage the emotions associated with divorce,
- lead the team meetings and encourage productive, goal oriented communications.
- create a parenting plan that addresses the unique needs of the children and parents and addresses the future restructuring of future family relationships.

The Neutral Forensic Financial

A Certified Public Accountant, trained in the collaborative process to help the parties:

- identify the marital assets and liabilities to be equitably distributed and identify and separate any non-marital components,
- identify incomes, share financial information and draft each parties sworn financial affidavit; all statutory requirements in every divorce case,
- analyze viable financial options for support and future cash flow and
- trace accounts, identify tax issues, value a business or calculate child support.

Depending on the contents of the marital estate, the spouses may need other collaboratively trained specialists to assist them in finalizing their agreement such as a real estate appraiser or a realtor, a vocational coach to help a spouse transition into the work force, a financial planner or specialist to draft a Qualified Domestic Relation Order for the distribution of a pension or 401k.