

## IN COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE YOU CAN:



- ▶ Control your post-divorce lives, instead of giving up control to the court system
- ▶ Use a trained collaborative team of experienced lawyers, psychologists and/or financial advisors who value family relationships
- ▶ Focus on the future and your children's needs
- ▶ Reach fair, practical, economical, individually tailored solutions

## REDUCE CONFLICT

- ▶ Collaborative professionals are trained in reducing conflict and distractions, so you can make divorce-related decisions together in an open, honest, productive process.

## FEES YOU CAN AFFORD

- ▶ Costs and conflicts can spiral out of control in court litigation, or even in traditional, non-collaborative legal negotiation. By avoiding that vicious cycle of escalation, our members can often save you more than the cost of their services. So why not contact us today?



## DIVORCE CAN BE...

- Total War
- Hurried, Scared, Confused Compromise
- Professional, Informed, Cooperative Negotiation

## COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE



THE COLLABORATIVE  
LAW SOCIETY

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WWW.CO-DIVORCE.COM

THE COLLABORATIVE  
LAW SOCIETY

A NETWORK OF INDEPENDENTLY PRACTICING LEGAL,  
PSYCHOLOGICAL AND FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS  
SERVING DC, MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA SINCE 2002

## WHAT IS COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE?

- ▶ Collaborative Divorce, also called Collaborative Law or Collaborative Practice, uses an integrated teamwork approach to solve problems of divorce, property, support and children's issues with grace, honesty, dignity and civility — without the cost and uncertainty of court litigation.
- ▶ Both parties sign a Collaborative Contract, a binding agreement (1) to share complete financial information and documents with each other, and (2) to hire the collaborative lawyers and other professionals only to give advice and help work out an agreement, not to fight in court. If either person files a court case before all the issues are settled, the collaborative lawyers cannot be involved in it.



## BASIC STEPS IN A COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE

- ▶ Discuss Collaborative Divorce with your spouse. See if you both want to explore it.
- ▶ Find trained collaborative lawyers, psychologists and/or financial planners on our referral list. It may be inserted in this brochure. It's also on the internet at [www.co-divorce.com](http://www.co-divorce.com) or [www.collaborativelawsociety.com](http://www.collaborativelawsociety.com). Or call toll free 1-888-363-5668 for referrals to Collaborative Law Society members in your area.
- ▶ Each person chooses and hires a collaborative lawyer.
- ▶ You both sign the Collaborative Law contract.
- ▶ If you and your spouse need help communicating about important decisions, go to collaborative psychologists for communication coaching.
- ▶ If either of you need help understanding your family's finances or future needs and resources, you should both visit a collaborative financial planner together.
- ▶ When you're ready to deal with property, support, children's issues etc., go back to the lawyers for advice and negotiations leading to a complete written settlement and usually a no-fault divorce.

## IT'S NOT JUST FOR DIVORCE!

YOU CAN ALSO USE THE COLLABORATIVE PROCESS FOR:

- ▶ Separation
- ▶ Temporary agreements
- ▶ Post-divorce issues
- ▶ Changing support, custody or visitation
- ▶ Unmarried partners
- ▶ Inheritance/probate cases
- ▶ Business disagreements

## CONTACT US!

TO FIND COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONALS FOR YOUR CASE, CALL OUR ADMINISTRATOR AT

**1-888-363-5668**

OR EMAIL

**[COLLABLAWSOCIETY@FLASH.NET](mailto:COLLABLAWSOCIETY@FLASH.NET)**

OR VISIT

**[WWW.CO-DIVORCE.COM](http://WWW.CO-DIVORCE.COM)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLABORATIVE LAW SOCIETY, CONTACT

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