

Please contact your LawNet Solicitor  
to discuss Collaborative Family Law

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**Collaborative Family Law through  
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# Collaborative Family Law

Resolving family disputes



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## Collaborative Family Law

Collaborative Family Law is a concept that is growing in popularity due to it being a more constructive and amicable approach when separating and divorcing.

As a firm we are keen to advocate Collaborative Law to our clients. Collaborative Law means your lawyers work with you, your partner and your partner's lawyer in a number of face-to-face meetings to openly negotiate family disputes. The aim of collaborative law is to resolve your family dispute with the support of your lawyer to guide you along the way, and to avoid having to go to court.

### How does it actually work?

- You and your partner meet with your specialist collaborative lawyer separately to discuss what is important to you and what you want out of the meetings.
- You will then meet again with your lawyer, partner and your partner's lawyer to sign a Participation Agreement. The agreement sets out guidelines to the process and states that if either party commences court proceedings that both lawyers must cease to act for their clients.
- Crucial to the collaborative process is the understanding that you will act in good faith in negotiations and that differences may need to be expressed to achieve an amicable outcome.
- The majority of the negotiations are then carried out in '4 way meetings'; having everyone present at these meetings ensures that both parties has had a fair say in a non-confrontational manner, and as a result the scope for misunderstandings is reduced.
- At no point during the process are letters written to address issues, all discussions are done through face-to-face meetings which are then minuted.
- Once an agreement has been reached, the lawyers draw up an agreed document and it is submitted to court for approval.

### What are the advantages of Collaborative Law

- There is no need to go to court; proceedings can be kept within you and your partners control whilst remaining dignified and respectful
- Negotiations are direct and efficient using face-to-face meetings
- Priority is given to the children
- Both parties commit to reaching an amicable settlement/agreement through a problem solving method employed in an open discussion forum.
- Collaboratively accredited experts such as financial advisers or divorce coaches can participate in meetings to assist negotiations if needed.

### How do I know if it is right for me?

Separating and divorcing can be highly emotional and you may find that Collaborative Law doesn't suit your individual circumstances.

However, if you wanted to maintain an atmosphere of respect and agree to work together to solve issues, whilst keeping children as the main priority, then Collaborative Law may well be for you.

## What should you do next?

Please call us on the number provided on the back of this brochure to discuss your individual circumstances and to see if Collaborative Law is right for you.

This booklet deals in general terms with a complex subject. Whilst we believe the contents to be correct, they should not be regarded as sufficiently full, accurate or precise so as to apply to any particular situation. You must always seek legal advice concerning any situations referred to in this booklet. No responsibility for any loss suffered by any person as a result of acting or refraining from acting in reliance upon the contents of this booklet can be accepted by this firm, its author or LawNet Ltd. This firm is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.