

What is Collaborative Divorce?

Collaborative divorce is a state-of-the-art approach in which a multidisciplinary team — consisting of attorneys, mental health professionals and financial specialists — is brought together to facilitate a divorce. Rather than the traditional model of divorce in which opposing attorneys are adversaries in a court litigation, in a collaborative divorce a team is provided to achieve settlement without ever going to court, while maintaining civility and facilitating good communication in a mutually respectful manner:

- Both spouses and their attorneys promise to be fair to each other without the threat of going to court.
- The collaborative process requires both spouses to deal with each other honestly, cooperatively, and respectfully, focusing on the long-term well being of the family.
- The collaborative process uses informal meetings with the spouses and their attorneys to settle all issues. The parties, NOT the court, make all decisions.
- The collaborative process focuses on the needs and interests of *both* spouses and the children.

Advantages of Collaborative Divorce

1. Open Exchange of Information

All participants agree to an open, honest exchange of accurate information and necessary documents. Neither spouse may take advantage of the miscalculations or inadvertent mistakes of others, but instead identifies and corrects them.

2. Custody

Both parties agree not to involve their children in disputes; and to speak respectfully to, and of, each other in the presence of their children. They negotiate a parenting plan focusing on the children's best interests, and may employ a jointly selected Child Specialist to help create a suitable plan.

3. Joint Experts

The spouses jointly employ the services of any accountant, appraiser, mental health professional, or other consultant whose services may be required, instead of each hiring adversarial and expensive "hired guns."

4. Negotiations

The spouses acknowledge each other's legitimate needs and work together creatively for their mutual good, instead of striving for individual advantages.

5. Attorney's Role

The attorneys are motivated to achieve a mutually acceptable resolution of all issues. Your attorney cannot "go to court" to resolve your case, and must withdraw from participation if his or her client abandons the collaborative process or refuses to follow collaborative guidelines.

Members of the Collaborative Divorce Team

Also included in the collaborative divorce process are:

COACHES — Licensed mental health professionals who will help you through this process by facilitating communication and offering emotional support through this high stress time. If children are involved, they may assist you in developing a parenting plan.

FINANCIAL EXPERTS — A neutral licensed financial expert will help you and your spouse address your family finances and educate you on complicated financial issues. They may assist with completing necessary financial forms.

CHILD SPECIALISTS — If needed, a mental health professional who is knowledgeable about child development, family dynamics, and the particular stresses of divorce and its effect on a developing child, will share impressions about the emotional well being of your child and will make recommendations to you and the entire collaborative team to facilitate your child's welfare.

Why Choose Collaborative Divorce?

■ **Less Costly**

This process is generally less costly than litigation.

■ **Cooperative Approach**

You are each supported and represented by your lawyers, and yet you work cooperatively with your spouse and his/her lawyer in resolving the issues.

■ **No Court**

Everyone can focus on settlement without the imminent threat of "going to court".

■ **Win-Win Climate**

The participants can create a climate that facilitates "win-win" settlements. The needs and the welfare of each member of the divorcing family are of primary concern to the collaborative team.

■ **Faster**

The proceeding takes much less time than litigation. It can be finalized within a short time following the parties reaching agreement, rather than getting bogged down for many months waiting for a court date.

■ **Clients In Charge**

You control the proceedings — your destiny is in your hands, rather than the hands of a court.

Law Office of Donald D. Vanarelli

The Law Office of Donald D. Vanarelli is devoted to handling all family law matters, from the initial interview through appeal, by providing high quality legal services with integrity, professionalism and respect for our clients. We accomplish our mission by listening to client goals, explaining the applicable law and devising appropriate strategies. Whether you need a divorce attorney or a domestic violence litigator; whether you seek a child support modification or you are embroiled in a custody dispute; we are prepared to work hard for you. We are committed to achieving optimal results for our clients by combining energy and resolve with competence and sound judgment. Success may be achieved in the courtroom through litigation, or through alternative strategies such as mediation or collaborative practice; however, our focus remains on the economic and practical implications of the decisions made in the case.



Donald D. Vanarelli has been a practicing attorney since 1983, admitted to practice law in New Jersey and New York. He was selected as a "NJ Super Lawyer" in 2008. Mr. Vanarelli was previously selected as a "NJ Super Lawyer" in 2007. The selection of outstanding lawyers identifies the top 5% of all lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Mr. Vanarelli was designated as an Accredited Professional Mediator by the NJ Association of Professional Mediators. He is a co-founder of the Elder Mediation Center of New Jersey. Mr. Vanarelli mediates cases involving elder law, guardianship, probate, and family law.

How Flexible Is the Collaborative Divorce Process?

CREATIVE APPROACHES

Your collaborative team is committed to finding ways to achieve settlement that will work best in your case. Their philosophy is that efforts should be exerted toward settlement rather than litigation. The process is custom tailored to the specific needs of your family.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DON'T SETTLE?

In the event you and your spouse are unable to arrive at a settlement through the collaborative divorce approach, the collaborative team withdraws from the case and the parties are free to retain new attorneys and pursue the matter in court.

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COLLABORATIVE FAMILY PRACTICE

Collaborative family practice is an innovative approach to restructuring your family during divorce. It focuses on the needs of your family and allows you and your spouse or partner to be in charge of the decisions affecting the rest of your lives, while keeping your personal and financial dignity intact.

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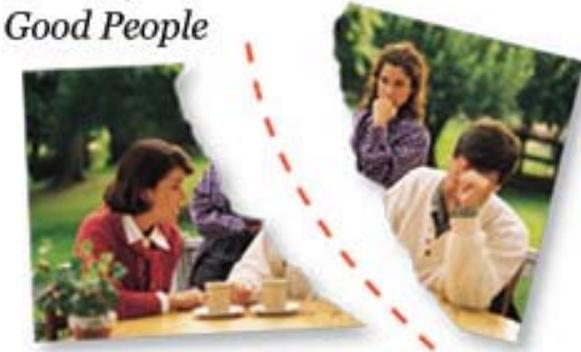


COLLABORATIVE
PRACTICE

Resolving Disputes Respectfully



*It's Sad, But
Good People*



Don't Always Stay Together

DO YOU WANT TO AVOID COURT?

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE
IS YOUR ANSWER

A BETTER WAY TO DIVORCE
Legally, Emotionally, Financially

