

Collaborative Divorce Association of North Jersey  
A New Path to Respectful Resolution

# COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH JERSEY



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[CollaborativeDivorceAssociationofNorthJersey.com](http://CollaborativeDivorceAssociationofNorthJersey.com)



## **Collaborative Divorce**

Ending a marriage can be (very) difficult. The focus, once on sentiments of love and devotion, can shift to feelings of loss, hurt and anger. Collaborative Divorce helps couples move through the invariable conflicts that develop during this time of emotional transition in a constructive and problem-solving approach.

Because Collaborative Divorce professionals are trained in mediation and the Collaborative Divorce process, they guide clients in negotiating these conflicts civilly. When children are involved, these collaborative skills are crucial to maintaining a working co-parenting relationship for the future.

## **Support When You Need It**

Divorce alters many aspects of life, from raising your children to financial and property questions. Navigating these issues alone, in addition to the emotional impact, can be daunting. The collaborative method is a supportive approach where you and your attorney work together with your spouse/partner and their collaborative attorney as well as other collaborative professionals who are available to help via our interdisciplinary approach to the process. This includes a financial specialist, a divorce coach and a child specialist. Each of these licensed professionals can be instrumental in helping you with your goals and possible solutions.

## **A NEW AND BETTER WAY**

A major difference between Collaborative Divorce and traditional litigated divorce is a pledge to reach an agreement out of Court. You both agree, in writing, to be part of a respectful process, solving problems jointly to preserve the integrity of the family. By doing so, you and your spouse/partner maintain control of your decisions instead of having a Judge decide what is in your best interest.

# Resolving Disputes Respectfully

## **OPEN COMMUNICATION**

Even under the best of circumstances, talking with your spouse/partner can be stressful. Open lines of communication are essential for reaching an agreement. The Collaboratively trained Divorce professionals assure that the settlement meetings will support an opportunity for an honest expression of needs and expectations. When issues are openly discussed, problem solving can be direct and solution-oriented. This model helps couples reach a realistic settlement by building on areas of mutual agreement.

## **A BETTER ALTERNATIVE**

As couples are increasingly seeking a more constructive, less expensive way to legally dissolve their relationship, Collaborative Divorce is the answer. As needed, collaborative divorce attorneys, mental health professionals and financial professionals work with the couple to resolve their issues by building agreement, without going to Court.

## **COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE IS BASED ON 3 PRINCIPLES:**

- A pledge not to go to court
- An honest and open exchange of information between both spouses
- Solutions that address the needs and concerns of all family members

## **A FOCUS ON THE FUTURE**

Divorce legally ends a marriage but, when children are involved, lifelong responsibilities remain. By fostering respect and encouraging cooperation between the parents, the collaborative process helps parents and children maintain important family bonds to enable them to move forward in a way that helps everyone heal.

# A New Path to Respectful Resolution

## **COLLABORATIVE ATTORNEY**

Collaboratively trained attorneys pledge to keep you out of Court. Their main task focuses on problem solving for the family. This includes advising you on your rights and obligations as they relate to issues of parenting, custody, support, equitable distribution of property and other financial matters.

## **DIVORCE COACH**

A collaboratively trained, licensed mental health professional helps you cope with emotions that could become an obstacle to a collaborative agreement. This is not therapy. The coach helps you focus on the present to better plan your future.

## **CHILD SPECIALIST**

Communication within the family can be difficult during this time. The collaboratively trained child specialist shares the children's concerns with the parents so an informed and comprehensive Parenting Plan can be developed. This is a brief and focused intervention, not therapy.

## **FINANCIAL SPECIALIST**

A divorce settlement affects your finances for years. The collaboratively trained financial specialist protects your family's interests by reviewing assets, debts and incomes while developing viable options for your future. You and your attorneys then construct a comprehensive plan.

## **COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE OFFERS:**

- Mutual respect
- Children's needs prioritized
- You stay out of court
- Increased control of the outcome
- Cost containment
- Open communication
- A problem solving approach
- Preparation for a new life

*CDANJ professionals are members of the IACP (International Academy of Collaborative Professionals)*

For more information on Collaborative Practice, please visit our website:  
[www.CollaborativeDivorceAssociationofNorthJersey.com](http://www.CollaborativeDivorceAssociationofNorthJersey.com)

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COLLABORATIVE LAW  
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