



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF
COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONALS

Resolving Disputes Respectfully

What makes Collaborative Practice unique?

Collaborative Practice is a voluntary process in which parties settle disputes without resort to litigation.

In Collaborative Practice:

1. The parties sign a collaborative participation agreement describing the nature and scope of the matter;
2. The parties voluntarily disclose all information which is relevant and material to the matter that must be decided;
3. The parties agree to use good faith efforts in their negotiations to reach a mutually acceptable settlement;
4. Each party must be represented by a lawyer whose representation terminates upon the undertaking of any contested court proceeding;
5. The parties may engage financial professionals and professionals who support the emotional, communication, and parenting components of the divorce,* whose engagement terminates upon the undertaking of any contested court proceeding; and
6. The parties may jointly engage other experts as needed.

In Collaborative Practice, each person, including professionals, commits to:

- Negotiate a mutually acceptable resolution without having courts decide issues.
- Maintain open communication and information sharing.
- Create shared solutions acknowledging the highest priorities of all.

* These professionals may be called mental health professionals, communication and family professionals, divorce coaches, communication specialists, or similar terms depending on country or region.