

What Does it Cost?

The cost of Collaborative Practice varies according to the complexity of the issues. It costs less than a litigated divorce, generally much less. Your lawyer can give you a better idea of the cost based on your specific situation.

What Else Should I Know?

Collaborative cases have a high success rate. Less than 10% of cases fail to settle. Nonetheless, if no agreement is reached, collaboratively, you will still be able to get divorced, but with new counsel. This may or may not involve litigation.

DIVORCE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS...



How To Begin

If you decide that Collaborative Practice could work for you, here is what to do:

- 1 Find out more about Collaborative Practice from the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, www.collaborativepractice.com, which offers a free “Collaborative Divorce Knowledge Kit,” as well as an informative video entitled “A Safe Place.”
- 2 Share the information you have about Collaborative Practice with your spouse.
- 3 Consult with a lawyer listed on the Collaborative Law Alliance of New Hampshire website, www.collaborativelawnh.org. Your spouse should do the same thing with a different lawyer.
- 4 You then hold the first meeting, sign a participation agreement, and discuss how you will proceed, including the efficient use of other professionals, such as the coach and the financial professional.



Contact Us

To see a list of New Hampshire lawyers, mental health professionals, and financial professionals trained in Collaborative Practice, contact us at:

www.CollaborativeLawNH.org

Collaborative Law Alliance of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 643, Dover, New Hampshire 03821



With Collaborative Divorce You Can...

- ✦ Resolve your disputes respectfully
- ✦ Protect children from emotional harm
- ✦ Maintain your privacy
- ✦ Save considerable time and money



COLLABORATIVE
LAW ALLIANCE
— of NEW HAMPSHIRE —

What Exactly is Collaborative Practice?

To reach agreements using the Collaborative Practice process, you begin by agreeing not to go to court. You, your lawyer, your spouse, your spouse's lawyer and the other professionals you select for your Collaborative Team sign a written contract which commits all of you to a series of meetings in which you will work creatively to arrive at agreements out of court.

In Collaborative Practice, the divorce is looked at as a problem to be solved, rather than a war to be waged.

Collaborative practice has spread across the United States, as well as internationally. It is even court-recommended in eight states, and this trend is growing. This process is also being used in business and employment disputes and other areas of law in addition to family law.

The Collaborative Law Alliance of New Hampshire, formed in the fall of 2000, is a New Hampshire non-profit corporation tax-exempt under IRC 501(c)(6). Its website (www.collaborativelawnh.org) lists the trained professionals who are members of the Alliance.



Why Should We Use Collaborative Practice?

- You and your spouse make the decisions in private.
- You work with the support and advice of trained professionals.
- Most couples complete the process in far less time than it takes to complete a litigated divorce.
- In most New Hampshire courts, no court hearings are required; you simply file your agreements and other documents with the court, and the divorce is granted.

Does it Work?

Collaborative Practice works! Participants report a high degree of satisfaction.

How Are The Agreements Reached?

The basic forum for creating an agreement is a “round-table” meeting with both parties, their two lawyers, a coach and a financial professional. The number of meetings depends upon the needs of the parties. Between meetings, each party meets separately with his or her lawyer, and each person in the team will have “homework” to bring to the next meeting.

Using Other Professionals

Parties find that it is highly beneficial to involve financial and mental health professionals in their settlements. These professionals typically save time and money by advising on financial issues, communication, emotions and child development. Their skills facilitate a better understanding of the issues and the consequences of choices the parties must make, and thus can make the options clearer and the outcome more satisfactory for all.

What About People Who Aren't Married?

Even though the terms “spouse” and “divorce” are used here for the sake of convenience, the fact is that not every family law dispute is a divorce. You can use Collaborative Practice just as well to resolve other family law disputes, including parenting rights and responsibilities between unwed parents, post-divorce conflict, guardianships, breakups of unmarried couples, and premarital agreements.