

# **COLLABORATIVE PHILOSOPHY**

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It has been said that roughly 50% or more of all marriages end in divorce. Non-marital relationships fail at similar rates as well. But the emotional devastation that often occurs with the breakup of a relationship doesn't have to be. That is where Collaborative Practice lives.

Collaborative Practice is the process that provides a more respectful alternative to the usually destructive divorce. It is designed to minimize the hurt, the loss of self-esteem, the anger and the alienation that occurs in many traditional litigated divorces. It is also designed to support families in transition to take advantage of all of their healthy options and opportunities while building a better tomorrow.

The Collaborative approach is grounded upon making human dignity and respect a priority. Individuals may cease being partners, but they don't cease being worthy, nor do they cease being parents. Every part of Collaborative Practice is intended to foster the respectful resolution of family problems. These intentions include open communication, interest based negotiations, solution focused negotiation, out-of-court settlement and no court divorce. When respect is given and received, self-esteem is likely to be preserved, making discussions more productive and a healthy and viable agreement more easily reached. Resolving Disputes Respectfully! Collaborative Practice.

The end of a marriage or relationship can be tragic in and of itself. Collaborative Practice believes that the process of divorcing shouldn't cause or add to the pain and suffering, but rather should help and support the clients and their children in achieving a respectful resolution of their issues and foresee a hopeful future.