

Collaborative Law – Working together for the family

- Collaborative law is a relatively modern process in which you and your partner commit to resolving matters with the assistance of your individual lawyers without involving the court. This commitment and the collaborative process gives you the opportunity to reach a solution that is most beneficial for you and your family.
- You, your partner and both your lawyers will sign a participation agreement which precludes either person from taking the matter to court. This provides a strong incentive to work together and make the collaborative process work. If this agreement is broken you will have to start again with different lawyers.
- Once the participation agreement has been signed you meet together to work things out face to face by way of a series of “four-way” meetings where you, your partner and your respective lawyers will be present. You can invite other professionals to your meetings if necessary, such as an accountant or an independent financial advisor. This holistic approach allows you and your partner to share your own objectives and discuss your future with as much assistance as is necessary. The benefit of the four way meetings is that you and your partner remain in control of the process.
- By reaching a solution by working together in a non-confrontational way it is more likely that you and your partner will be able to remain amicable in the future than if you have had a decision imposed on you by the court.
- Once you and your partner have reached agreement, your lawyers will prepare a Consent Order which minutes this agreement reached. The Order is then sent to the court for approval and there will be no need for you or your partner to attend court.