

What is collaborative practice?

Collaborative Practice, including Collaborative Law and interdisciplinary Collaborative Divorce, is a new way for you to resolve disputes respectfully -- without going to court -- while working with trained professionals who are important to all areas of your life. The term incorporates all of the models developed since IACP's Minnesota lawyer Stu Webb created Collaborative Law ideas in the 1980s.

The heart of Collaborative Practice or Collaborative Divorce (also called "no-court divorce," "divorce with dignity," "peaceful divorce") is to offer you and your spouse or partner the support, protection, and guidance of your own lawyers without going to court. Additionally, Collaborative Divorce allows you the benefit of child and financial specialists, divorce coaches and other professionals all working together on your team.

In Collaborative Practice, core elements form your contractual commitments, which are to:

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

A Different Approach to Divorce that Promotes Peace and Avoids War

While our adversarial court system has served society well for criminal trials and civil disputes. It has proven to be less than ideal for divorce and family matters. Too often our justice system results in divorces that are far too expensive and stressful, while leaving both parties unsatisfied with unmet needs.

While traditional divorce encourages parties to "fight" their way to a final settlement, the goal of Collaborative Divorce is to reduce conflict, focus on solutions and to encourage healing throughout the divorce process.

Collaborative Divorce has been developed from an understanding of the stress, fears and uncertainties associated with divorce. Our professionals call upon many years of practical, professional experience to promote peaceful divorce settlements.