



# COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE

A “HOLE IN ONE” FOR THE FAMILY

## THINKING THE ONLY WAY TO GET DIVORCED IS THROUGH LITIGATION IS LIKE PLAYING A ROUND OF GOLF WITH ONLY A DRIVER.

Divorce is a scary process where outcomes are unknown. You may not have chosen the path to get divorced, but I’m sure you want to be part of the outcome that will determine how you will live in the future. The first steps are the most important in achieving a successful divorce. Do you rush to litigate because that’s all you know and “duff” your shot?

Litigation tears families apart. Each party viciously tries to make the other person seem worse in order to have a judge decide in their favor. Struggles for parenting time, passion for winning their cause at all costs to the family, and competition in court all have devastating effects on the children and your finances. Unlike TV or the movies, you don’t have your day in court. After the attorneys are gone and the case is closed, the parents must somehow pick up the pieces and establish a working relationship for the children’s best interest. Litigation looks at today: he gets this; she gets that; “*que sera sera.*”

**Collaborative Divorce** is the process that can make the most sense for you, your children and your family. Although you may no longer be husband and wife, you will always be a family and how you handle the process of divorce is important in moving forward.

In **Collaborative Divorce**, each client is represented by their own attorney. There are other professional team members, a neutral family specialist to

help with parenting plans, and a neutral financial divorce specialist that helps in the gathering of assets, liabilities, developing post-divorce budgets and to help with financial settlement options. The Collaborative Process takes active involvement by the attorney’s and neutrals with specific specialties to ensure that expertise is given to the clients to ultimately be masters of their own fate; right professional for each task; right club for each shot. Different scenarios/ pieces of the puzzle are analyzed until the right picture is formed for the couple. The couple gains financial knowledge throughout the process so that informed decisions can be made. Projections are made so that the couple can see what the effect is on their future for each scenario until the couple decides what is best for them. Nothing is lost by resolving issues respectfully.

The process is transparent and the clients “*drive the golf cart*” towards a mutually agreeable goal of parenting, and financials with the help of the professionals. When the clients meet on the course again, at the children’s birthday parties, graduations and weddings, there is a feeling of respect that they have worked together to meet the needs of the family.

Choosing the right team trained and actively handling Collaborative Divorce cases is as important as the process. Collaborative law produces a happier and more durable outcome...*a hole in one* for the family. There are **no mulligans** in how you write your divorce story.

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