

Collaborative Practice

Collaborative Practice provides divorcing or separating couples with a real opportunity to work together with a team of trained professionals to resolve disputes respectfully without going to Court.

Your collaborative lawyer works for you providing legal advice and guidance throughout the process but working with your partner and his/her lawyer as part of a team to help achieve settlement.

Collaborative Practice is well worth considering if some of the following is important for you and you want a dignified non-aggressive resolution of the issues :-

- You and your partner have children and wish to reach a resolution by agreement keeping their needs and interests at the forefront.
- You value retaining control over decisions about restructuring your financial arrangements or those relating to the children but with advice from experts.
- You need the assistance of a lawyer to help you negotiate in face to face meetings.
- There are some distinct advantages offered by the collaborative process not least you keep control of the process yourself about having to go to Court.
- Children's needs are given priority. You and your partner commit to reaching agreement through a problem solving approach and where an atmosphere preserves your self-esteem.
- There is full disclosure of the facts and information but open communication allows both of you to express your needs for moving forward and gives you new tools for effective problem solving in the future.

- Face to face meetings in the presence of lawyers make negotiations direct and efficient and allow for mutually created resolutions.

- The Collaborative Practice helps both of you plan for your own future and that of your children and to begin new lives.

The end of a relationship or a marriage is difficult enough to deal with. Collaborative practitioners believe that the process of divorcing or separating should not add to the pain but instead help the parties involved to look forward to a hopeful future.

At MacDonald Oates, our specialist Family lawyers are all members of Resolution (a national organisation for lawyers who are committed to a constructive, non-confrontational approach to family law matters) and our team includes a number of trained collaborative lawyers and a Mediator. The team has developed a reputation as one of the leading family law teams in the region.

Mediation is also available as an alternative option for separating couples and whether through our own Mediator or by supporting clients through the mediation process, this is a service we are able to offer our clients.

[For advice on these issues, or any other family related problem, then please contact our Family Law Team on 01730 268211.](#)

Please note that information is for guidance purposes only should not be regarded as a substitute for taking legal advice. Please refer to the full terms and conditions on our website.