

Collaborative Family Law Process

Central Ohio Academy of Collaborative Divorce Professionals
(COACDP)

-- A Better Way to Divorce

Inside

- Information on Collaborative Family Law Process In Central Ohio
- How Collaborative Family Law Process Works
- Using Collaborative Family Law Process In a Domestic Case to Achieve

“Divorce with Dignity”

Visit the website of

**Central Ohio Academy of
Collaborative Divorce
Professionals (COACDP) at:**

<http://www.winwindivorce.org>

CENTRAL OHIO ACADEMY OF COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE PROFESSIONALS (COACDP)

An association of lawyers, mental health professionals, and financial professionals
dedicated to helping you achieve a respectful, peaceful divorce.

See our website - www.winwindivorce.org

What is the Collaborative Family Law Process?

- It is a process where both parties and counsel commit themselves to resolving a domestic case in a reasonable and equitable manner without resorting to adversarial court proceedings.
- It emphasizes interest-based negotiations to build agreements; it focuses on both people's interests to build agreements.
- Negotiations are conducted in private, in an atmosphere of honesty, transparency, cooperation, integrity, and professionalism focusing on the future well-being of the parties.
- It encourages the respectful interdisciplinary use and cooperation of lawyers, neutral mental health professionals (divorce/communications coach, child specialists) and neutral financial professionals (CPAs, CFPs, CDFAs, etc.). Each case is different, and the involvement of the neutrals will depend on the needs of the parties.

The Collaborative Family Law Process could work for you if both parties—

- Are determined to behave in a dignified, respectful, ethical manner toward one another.
- Value a negotiated solution that meets the legitimate needs of each member of the family after the divorce.
- Commit their intelligence, energy, and goodwill toward creative problem-solving that is oriented toward the future rather than rehashing the arguments of the past.

The Goals of Collaborative Family Law Process are that you:

- End up with an agreement more tailored to your own unique needs, with you both having control over the outcome and the decisions that need to be made.
- Spend your time and resources more efficiently and productively with the goal of attaining resolution, as opposed to supporting polarized positions in the litigation process. For example, a CPA reviews the income and assets, the mental health professional works with communications, stress management, parenting issues and planning.
- Are more engaged, have more understanding and control of the process, and have less stress than you would in a contested divorce.
- Have less damage (financial, emotional, and relational) to you, the children, and the family.

The Keys to Collaborative Family Law Process:

- COACDP is a specially trained self-selected group of experienced professionals who have purposefully chosen to work in a more positive way to help couples. The lawyers, mental health professionals, and financial professionals have completed extensive training in the collaborative process. These professionals work together, as an interdisciplinary team, to serve you. Significant collaborative training is a requirement, not an option, to be a member of COACDP.
- Our clientele is self-selected by the desire to have a more peaceful divorce.
- The attorneys agree in writing and in advance not to file a contested divorce.
- There are no secrets: everyone is committed to full disclosure of all relevant facts, documents and information.
- Business is done in planned meetings where the parties, the two lawyers, and often the neutral financial professional and neutral mental health professionals attend. In these meetings, you can talk to your spouse's lawyer, and the lawyers can talk to both spouses— no sitting around in the courthouse halls or waiting for a trial date, no cross-examinations or trials, no humiliation, no rude interruptions, no malice, no game-playing, no faultfinding or bringing up past grievances. Rather, the process is conducted with dignity, respect and reason.

How to Get Started

- Consult our website and choose a lawyer to talk to about collaborative divorce.
- Use the copy of this brochure to discuss the information with your spouse.
- Each party should select and meet with an attorney from the COACDP website. (www.winwindivorce.org)