

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR COLLABORATIVE FINANCIAL SPECIALISTS
(Revised 2/22/10)
PARTICIPATING IN
COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE PROFESSIONALS, INC.

Practice and Ethical Standards

Collaborative Divorce Professionals, Inc. (CDP, Inc.) strives to adhere to the following qualifications and standards:

A Financial Specialist qualifying as a member of the Collaborative Divorce Professionals Inc. must:

1. Be a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), Certified Public Accountant (CPA), or a Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) or have a minimum of 10 years of financial planning experience.
2. Have an appropriate background, education, and experience in financial planning and financial aspects of divorce including training in financial fundamentals of divorce (20 hours).
 - i. Can be fulfilled at either the Institute of Divorce Financial Analysts (Southfield, Michigan), the Academy for Financial Divorce Practitioners (DePaul, Illinois), or through selected University, Bar Association, CPA programs or other professional programs as long as continuing education credit is provided for CPAs, ChFCs, or CFPs. Evidence of course completion will be required.
 - ii. This is usually evidenced by being permitted to use the designation of Certified Divorce Financial Analyst (CDFA) or Certified Financial Divorce Practitioner (CFDP).
 - iii. Work experience may be substituted for course completion as evidenced by participation as a financial analyst in at least 20 cases, and written recommendation(s) from domestic law attorneys involved with those cases.
3. Have at least 12 hours of basic interdisciplinary collaborative training or collaborative training.
4. And, adhere to the Guideline Ethical Standards of the IACP, including:
 - a. No commissions or revenues from the sale of investments or other products to the clients involved in the collaboration,
 - b. No referral fees or other compensation for the implementation of financial strategies before or during the collaborative process.
 - c. During the process, there will be no discussion or solicitation for professional services after the inclusion of the matter.

It is noted, however, that this document addresses only on-going business standards for Collaborative Engagements. It does not apply if the Financial Specialist has not served as a Neutral in a Collaborative Engagement. If the Financial Specialist has assisted with a divorcing client in another role, but there is no Collaboration Contract with the Lawyers or Participation Agreement with the Financial Specialist, the Financial

Specialist may be retained by one or both of the parties to the divorce for other business including engaging in sales on a commission basis or accepting fees for the financial services including investment management or insurance sales.

Collaborative Divorce Professionals, Inc. Membership Standards

To be included as a Regular Member in Forums or Group Meetings, CDP, Inc. Financial Specialists must meet the following additional requirements:

1. Pay full annual dues as set by Collaborative Divorce Professionals, Inc.
2. Devote a significant portion of their practice to Divorce Practice.
3. CDP, Inc. members are not required to be IACP members, although it is highly recommended.

Website Inclusion

In order to maintain a listing on the Collaborative Divorce Professional, Inc. Website, Financial Specialists must submit the proper fee required as prescribed by CDP, Inc. This is in addition to their Annual Dues.

Transitional Membership

A transitional period is allowed for interested practitioners to gain knowledge and experience in Collaborative Practice. Transitional members have 12 months to complete Collaborative Law training. Transitional members must be a CFP, CPA, or ChFC and must have completed the divorce financial training (20 hours). They must be engaged in or registered for Basic Collaboration training and/or the Alternative Dispute Resolution training. They must also adhere to the ethical standards of the IACP regarding business relationships with the collaborative clients. Transitional members will be expected to follow the standards of practice described in the CDP Participation Agreement without deviation. Transitional members may not be listed on the website.