

THE COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAWYER

Collaborative lawyers guide you through a process that enables you to reach resolution of disputes.

They expertly assist you to:

- Negotiate in a principled, dignified and respectful manner
- Require full and complete disclosure of all important information
- Explore as many options for settlement as possible
- Reach creative resolutions that best meet the goals and priorities of both parties
- Resolve family law disputes without going to court or threatening to go to court

COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW

Collaborative Family Law is an advanced no-court approach for resolving disputes.

An effective process to facilitate settlement in family law matters

- Lawyers and clients work as a team
- Everyone agrees to stay out of Court
- The process is structured to meet your needs
- Promotes the best interests of children

**QUEBEC COLLABORATIVE
LAW GROUP**

COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW

**An innovative
approach to settle
family law disputes**



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www.quebeccollaborativelaw.ca

What is Collaborative Law?

- A structured, creative and principled process to resolve family law conflicts
- An approach that addresses the needs of both parties
- Resolution through the participation of both parties and their lawyers
- Resolution with full disclosure

Why Choose Collaborative Law?

- The clients and their attorneys control the process
- A climate of cooperation reduces the stress that accompanies any family law dispute
- Trained counsel assist both parties at every stage of the process
- The team can focus on settlement without the threat of going to court
- The process may be less costly and time-consuming than litigation

Frequently Asked Questions

How is the collaborative process different from mediation?

In Collaborative Family Law, negotiations take place in four-way meetings with both lawyers and parties working together. You also meet with your lawyer individually to receive legal advice.

Mediation takes place with an impartial third party who helps you and your partner reach decisions. You attend the sessions without your lawyer and obtain legal counsel and advice outside the sessions.

How does collaborative law differ from litigation?

The parties make the decisions on the final result.

The Collaborative Process:

- Focusses on your interests
- Allows everyone to maintain their dignity
- Lessens hostility
- Reduces negative impact on children
- Sets the stage for getting on with your life
- May be quicker and therefore less expensive

What if the process is not successful?

Throughout Canada and the United States, the success rate of Collaborative Law is high. However, if either party decides to discontinue the process, both lawyers must withdraw after assisting in the orderly transfer of the file according to the terms of the Collaborative Agreement. Both parties then start proceedings with new lawyers.

How long will it take?

The length of time required depends on the parties and their individual situations.

What must I bring to the process?

A willingness to participate in productive dialogue, to make financial disclosure (this is also required in mediation and litigation) and to treat your partner with respect.

How much will it cost?

Your lawyer will charge her/his hourly fee.

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