

## HOW CAN I GET A REFERRAL TO A COLLABORATIVE LAWYER? *(continued)*

IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK CITY, you may find a Collaborative Lawyer in your area by visiting <http://www.nycourts.gov/collablaw>

**NOTE:** Collaborative Family Law is not appropriate if you cannot locate your spouse or in cases involving domestic violence.

## HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON COLLABORATIVE LAW?

- Send an email to [collablaw@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:collablaw@courts.state.ny.us)
- Call (212) 428-5592
- Visit <http://www.nycourts.gov/collablaw>



NYS Unified Court System  
Division of Court Operations  
Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution  
and Court Improvement Programs

Collaborative Family Law Center  
80 Centre Street, Room 133  
New York, NY 10013

**Phone:** (212) 428-5592

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NEW YORK STATE  
UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM

COLLABORATIVE  
FAMILY LAW CENTER



# NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM

## Collaborative Family Law Center

### WHAT IS COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW?

**COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW** is a type of alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) process that gives divorcing couples a respectful way to end their marriage with the help of lawyers, but without the stress, delay, and cost of going to court.

### HOW DOES THE COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE PROCESS WORK?

**IN COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW**, each spouse has his or her own lawyer. The spouses and the lawyers sit together in face-to-face meetings to talk about the issues they need to resolve. The process may also involve financial and mental health professionals. All of these specially-trained professionals work together to get the parties divorced without the frustration of a long, drawn-out court battle.

**THE PROCESS OFTEN ENDS WITH A WRITTEN AGREEMENT** that can be included in a Judgment of Divorce.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF WE CANNOT REACH AGREEMENT?

**AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROCESS, THE SPOUSES AND THEIR LAWYERS AGREE IN WRITING NOT TO GO TO COURT.** If one or both parties want to go to court, the lawyers will not represent them. That means that both spouses will need to hire new lawyers, and begin a traditional divorce process through the court system. This agreement not to go to court motivates everyone to settle the case collaboratively.

### IS COLLABORATIVE LAW RIGHT FOR ME AND MY SPOUSE?

**Collaborative Law is for couples who**

1. Want a respectful end to their marriage, for the sake of all family members;
2. Understand the importance of future relationships, even after divorce;
3. Believe it is important to protect children from the harm of conflict;
4. Want control of their own divorce process and outcome.

### HOW CAN I GET A REFERRAL TO A COLLABORATIVE LAWYER?

**THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION OPENED A COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW CENTER** in lower Manhattan at 80 Centre Street, Room 133, New York, NY.

**IF YOU WANT TO TRY COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW** and you live in one of New York City's five boroughs, we can connect you to trained Collaborative Lawyers and other professionals. These professionals have agreed to represent eligible clients in a collaborative divorce for a reduced fee—and in some cases—without charge.

**TO LEARN MORE, CALL (212) 428-5592 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO [COLLABLAW@COURTS.STATE.NY.US](mailto:COLLABLAW@COURTS.STATE.NY.US).**

