

WHAT IF THE PROCESS IS NOT SUCCESSFUL?

Throughout North America, England and Europe 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 who will take whatever steps may be appropriate.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Prior to commencing the collaborative process your lawyer in compliance with the solicitors' regulations, will advise you of his or her hourly rate and any associated costs.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.southdublincollaborativelawyers.ie
www.acp.ie



“Discord to Dialogue”

South Dublin
Collaborative Lawyers

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

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

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 spouse / partner with respect.

“ We are a group of practitioners based in the South Dublin area all committed to the practice of collaborative law as a means of resolving family law issues.”

To contact a practitioner in the South Dublin Collaborative Lawyers Group and for further information see

www.southdublincollaborativelawyers.ie

Collaborative Family Law is a client centred process expertly guided by Lawyers, through which you and your spouse/partner are enabled to move from **discord to dialogue** towards a workable and lasting agreement.

WHY CHOOSE COLLABORATIVE LAW?

- Allows you to make key decisions about the future of you and your family without having to go to Court.
- Structured to meet all needs.
- Promotes the best interests of children.
- You, your spouse / partner and your lawyers work together towards resolving all issues and meeting all needs.
- Explores as many options for settlement as possible.
- Lawyers and clients cooperate and agree to stay out of court.
- Negotiate in a principled dignified and respectful manner.
- An open transparent informed and frank process with full disclosure of all important information.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Following initial consultations with your own lawyer, negotiations take place in four way meetings, face to face with you, your spouse/partner and both lawyers, all working together. The lawyers provide legal advice and guidance throughout the process but all decisions are made by you, your spouse/partner.

All parties work in a non-confrontational way to assist in reaching a resolution. In addition, a family consultant is engaged to support you and your spouse/partner throughout the process.

All parties sign an agreement which highlights the absolute commitment of you, your spouse/partner and the lawyers to the process.

The process is based on full disclosure of all relevant information by you and your spouse/partner. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached through the collaborative process your lawyers are disqualified from representing either of you in contested Court proceedings.

HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM LITIGATION/MEDIATION?

- Focuses on the interests of all parties, with your own built in legal advice at all times.
- Reduces negative impact on children.
- Sets the stage for getting on with your life.
- May be quicker and therefore more cost effective.
- Resolution driven and client orientated.
- The parties consider whether other trained professionals such as child experts, family therapists, financial advisors and valuers should be involved.