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Separation and Your Well-being – the Collaborative Law Process

You've made the decision to separate or divorce from your partner? Have you thought about all of the questions you need to get answers to such as where the children live, how much time they spend with the other parent, what happens to the family home and who will remain there or will it have to be sold?

How do you get answers to these questions without there being arguments, bitterness and hurt for you, your ex-partner and ultimately, your children?

The answer is Collaborative Law.

What is Collaborative Law and how does it work? You and your ex-partner each have your own collaboratively trained solicitor and you all sit down to talk about all of the issues affecting your separation and/or divorce. There are a series of meetings so you and your ex-partner have time to work through the issues in the best possible way. Your solicitor will support and advise you throughout the whole process.

You and your ex-partner will have control over what issues are discussed, will set your own agenda with the help of your solicitor and will talk about the issues that matter to you, big or small.

Other family professionals such as financial advisers or family consultants can be included in the process where needed.

Importantly, at the start of the process both you and your ex-partner will sign an agreement that you will not take the matter to Court to confirm your commitment to the process. However, if the Collaborative process does not work, you are able to take the matter to Court for a Judge to ultimately decide how to resolve matters. At this point, your collaboratively trained solicitor will no longer be able to assist you. As such, your collaboratively trained solicitor is just as committed to the process as you are.

Why choose Collaborative Law? It lets you and your ex-partner with the help of your solicitors be in control of what matters to you. Because you and your ex-partner have reached the agreement yourselves you are both more likely to stick to the agreement which makes for a better future for you and your family. There need be no animosity, bitterness or conflict. The process makes your separation less stressful and easier for you, your ex-partner and your children. There is no stranger in the form of a Judge making decisions about your personal life and finances which you have to live by. It's also a much quicker process than going through a Court process, so you and your family can find closure to this difficult time more quickly.

Collaborative Law not right for you? Consider Mediation which we talk about in our Mediation Factsheet.