

COLLABORATION

Divorce or the ending of a long-term relationship is a sensitive and personal matter. No single approach is right for everyone. Many couples find Collaborative Divorce to be a welcomed alternative to the often destructive, and sometimes very expensive aspects of court proceedings. This process allows the couple, and family, to have legal, financial, and emotional support during the difficult time of transition, without going to court. By not pursuing litigation, you are giving yourself the best chances of preserving a relationship.

COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE

Your solution begins here



Choose your process wisely.

If you are interested in learning more about Collaborative Divorce or finding a collaboratively trained professional, please visit our website **www.ETCA.us**

Collaborative divorce approaches divorce as a problem to be solved rather than a war to be won.

East Tennessee Collaborative Alliance

~ A Better Way to Divorce ~

OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS WILL HELP YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

If you and your spouse have made the difficult decision to divorce, but want to move ahead in a way that is supportive, considerate, sensible, and constructive, Collaborative Divorce might be the process for you.

COLLABORATIVE LAWYERS

Though collaborative practice does not involve going to court, the settlement is still a legal agreement. Therefore, it is essential that a lawyer be involved to advise you on all matters of the law, child custody and support, maintenance agreements, financial settlements, and property distribution.

DIVORCE COACHES

Divorce is a major transition. While it marks the end of one part of your life, it is also the beginning of another. A divorce coach will help you manage the pain and strain of changing relationships while focusing on goals for the present and future. The coach assists you and the team throughout the process to be able to effectively communicate and reach resolutions that will work for your family.

FINANCIAL SPECIALISTS

The divorce settlement will play a great part in your financial well-being for many years to come. It is critical that it be soundly structured to address your needs. The specialist will help protect your interests, review all assets and incomes, analyze viable financial options, and assist you and your attorney to construct a comprehensive plan for the next stage of your life.

CHILD SPECIALISTS

Children may suffer most from divorce and be the least able to understand or express their feelings. Their world is being turned upside down in ways they cannot begin to comprehend. A goal of ETCA is to assure children are a priority. A child specialist may be included to incorporate your children's feelings and concerns about the divorce.

All professionals have been trained in, and are committed to, the unique collaborative model.

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LITIGATION

You and your spouse control the process and make final decisions	Judge controls the process and makes final decision
You and your spouse pledge mutual respect and openness	Court process is based on an adversarial system
Costs are managed, can be less than litigation; team model is financially efficient in use of experts	Costs are unpredictable and can escalate rapidly including frequency of post-judgment litigation
You and your spouse create the timetable	Judge and the courts set the timetable; often delayed due to crowded court docket
Jointly retained specialists provide information and guidance for you and your spouse to develop informed, mutually beneficial solutions	Separate (dueling) experts are hired to support litigants' positions; often at great expense
Both lawyers work towards a mutually created settlement	Lawyers fight to win; someone must lose
The process, discussions and details are kept private	Dispute becomes a matter of public record and media attention
Team of Collaborative Practice specialists educate and assist you and your spouse on how to effectively communicate with each other	No process to facilitate communication; you and your spouse communicate through the attorneys
Voluntary	Mandatory if no agreement
Outside court. Marriage Dissolution Agreement delivered to the court by your attorneys for judge's approval	Judge makes decision based on facts and testimony presented — may include friends, neighbors, and co-workers